

has recently been brought under our notice: A medical practitioner was asked to circumcise a child, eighteen months old. Being an experienced administrator of anæsthetics, he undertook to act the dual part of chloroformist and operator. He put the infant under chloroform, and then handed the lint to the nurse, to hold under his superintendence. Everything seemed to be satisfactory, but as soon as he had removed the necessary portion of prepuce, he was 'bounded to find that the wound did not bleed. Quickly turning his attention to the child, he discovered it to be pulseless, and not breathing. He put in practice at once all the ordinary methods of bringing the patient to life, but without avail; and, at this time, the father of the child, who was in the room, seeing the condition of affairs, added to the difficulty of the situation by rushing madly up and down, lamenting his loss. The surgeon, having directed the parent to go downstairs, set to work anew, by getting the nurse to draw out the patient's tongue as far as possible, then with his fingers grasping the nostrils, he blew with all his force into the patient's mouth and fully inflated the lungs. This having been done, he compressed the chest, and then inflated again. This process was carried on for some moments, and suddenly the child gave an involuntary gasp. In the course of time, the process being continued, the child began to breathe of itself, and as soon as respiration was properly established, the surgeon completed the operation in the usual way. Such a near escape from what would have been a terrible misfortune, deserves being recorded, and especially on account of the adoption of the means by which the successful result was mainly brought about.

Treatment of Sleeplessness.

A. Symons Eccles, M.B., in *Practitioner* for March says: 1. *Hot Bath*, taken just before settling quietly for the night, is most valuable in producing a dreamless sleep; though this does not usually last more than four hours, and is sometimes followed by a period of great wakefulness, relieved only by a short morning doze. Method of giving the bath most important. Bath room should be at temperature of 65° , and this to be raised during bath to 70° . Patient to be at once stripped, and then the stooped head and face rapidly douched with water at 100° to dilate brain vessels; next whole body, except head and face, to be

immersed in bath at 98° , and this temperature rapidly raised to 105° — 110° . In about eight to fifteen minutes, when the at first accelerated pulse has fallen to a slow, full, steady and compressible beat, the patient must be slowly raised, closely wrapped in warm blankets (a loose pyjama suit is a good contrivance), and conducted to the bedroom without any haste and at as small personal effort as possible. On reaching the bedroom he will be dry. Let him then at once don his night-clothes and immediately lie down with his head well raised, a hot bottle to the feet, and the body well covered with bedclothes. The bath probably acts by reducing the supply of blood to the whole of the brain, thus decreasing the functional activity equally throughout, and so placing it in the most favorable condition for complete functional rest, to the exclusion of the practical activity of certain centres which would induce dreaming. It has proved most useful for the relief of disturbed sleep in persons who have either ceased to be influenced by ordinary hypnotics, or in whose cases their use is contra-indicated. The bath itself, however, is contra-indicated in extreme anæmia, emaciation, aortic valvular disease, and atheroma.

2. *Massage at bedtime*.—Valuable in organic cardiac mischief, and in the very large number of cases in which functional weakness of the heart and circulation generally is a feature of the nervous debilitated constitution. Two cases of aortic regurgitation mentioned, in which permanent benefit resulted, and one of aortic aneurism where the improvement was only temporary. On conclusion of the kneading the patient must at once compose himself to sleep. Its performance must be rapid, commencing with the abdomen and passing to the back, arms, and legs, with a little exposure of the parts to the outer air as possible, so that a layer of warm air may be maintained between the closely-covered limbs and the bedclothes. The manipulations should be directed not so much to the evacuation of the lymphatic and venous vessels of the parts dealt with, as to the rapid and sufficient stimulation of the sensory nerves with the dilatation of the arteries over as large an area as possible. This kneading no doubt acts in the same way as tapping the abdominal parietes of a frog, which Goltz showed greatly dilated the abdominal vessels and distended them with blood, whilst it reduced frequency of the pulse.