

makes this department a specialty. During a conversation with the Doctor in his office a few months ago, we obtained full particulars of the death of Mr. Cresswell; and from the report of the inquest, it was clearly proven that in no way was the anæsthetic or the operator to blame. The fact is, every operator in the course of an honest practice is exposed to such coincidences, and we should be charitable in our judgments, not knowing when "Curses, like chickens, may come home to roost."

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### **Prof. Garretson on Anæsthetics.**

In Prof. Garretson's revised edition of his "Oral Surgery," there are two chapters (73rd and 76th) of more than ordinary value; the philosophical nature of which must make them classical in dental literature. The first chapter, entitled "Medical Diagnosis," is preliminary to the study of anæsthetics and anæsthesia, and appreciative of disease in general. A simple glance at the divisions will be suggestive:—Definition of disease; disease a generic term; foundation of diagnosis; ability to diagnose proportional with knowledge; study of diagnosis; suggestions in diagnosis; diagnosis a matter both of principle and detail; treatment founded on diagnosis. Physical condition—external and internal; surgical diagnosis; medical diagnosis; process of exclusion; consideration of common expressions. Diagnosis as applying to anæsthesia and anæsthetics—requirements of an anæsthetist; tripod of life; diseases of the heart and lungs. Physical diagnosis—differentiation between sounds in health and disease; rales or ronchi; pleural frictions; vocal fremitus and resonance; pathological conditions. The chapter on inflammation is a new addition to the work addressed solely to students, and embraces a careful discussion of the subject.

The chapter on anæsthetics is valuable as giving the opinions of an experienced surgeon. Prof. Garretson, referring to the idiosyncrasies, says that he has never yet met with a person who might not take ether, or ether in combination with chloroform, having administered ether under every possible variety of circumstances as to age, condition, time, etc. The depressing effect of fear on the heart's action is never to be lost sight of in the use of chloroform. The author recommends the inducement of a preliminary artificial