form an explosive mixture, and a series of infinitesimal explosions result, agitating the liquid differently from ebullition or effervescence. This condition is readily detected by the practiced eye.

The nitric oxyd, thus formed, is a vcry poisonous gas, and is very rapidly converted into nitrous acid, which as rapidly passes into nitric acid, by increase of oxydation. This is a much lighter gas than nitrous oxyd, and is far less soluble in water; consequently contrary to the popular opinion and the statements of some writers on the subject, it can not be removed from nitrous oxyd by washing, or passing the mixture through water. A mixture of these two gases becomes more and more unfit for use, by repeated and prolonged washings.

In administering the nitrous oxyd, the patient must not be smothered. This is an important, yet much neglected point, in the use of any anæsthetic. The apparatus ought to be so arranged that respiration is not in the least obstructed. This inhaler is defective. The expiration is considerably retarded, which is a very serious fault, A tube of sufficient diameter, with proper valves, without wings or flanges is the best "inhaler." The patient should be seated in a very comfortable position ; for with a few inhalations of the gas sensation is so much exalted that trivial inconveniences become painful and very annoying. When the patient has taken the inhaler into his mouth, hold open the valve, and have him make a few full inhalations of air, for the purpose of removing all carbonic acid from the air cells. This is practically of very great importance. The first full inspiration of nitrous oxyd seems almost to overwhelm the lungs. The rush of carbonic acid into the air cells is very great. Hence it is nearly always best, after a single inspiration, to open the valve, and let the patient take one or two breaths of air; and through the whole process of administration, whenever, by flushed features or otherwise, there is the least indication of suffocation, admit air freely till relief is afforded. After a little time the rush of carbonic acid abates, and the admission of air is not called for. There should be nothing like forcing the patient to take the gas, such as holding the lips, etc. ; for when the gas is pure he wants to take it. And when pure and properly administered, it produces neither delirium nor darkening of the complexion. I have sometimes used it regularly for months, without seeing either of these symptoms. Both are caused by the presence of carbonic acid in the air-cells, and not by nitrous oxyd.