

No later than ten years ago the number of reported deaths from chloroform alone was but a fraction less than half a thousand. Since that time, with its more extended use, the fatalities have greatly increased. Statistics of the fatalities from anæsthesia are hard to be obtained, but as near as can be determined the facts are as follows: It is estimated that chloroform kills one patient in every ten thousand; sulphuric etherine one in every twenty-six thousand, and nitrogen monoxide one in every one hundred and fifty thousand. And please mark the significance of this fact, viz: Forty per cent. of these deaths have occurred when the anæsthetic was given for minor operations, such as strabismus, tooth drawing, etc. Forty deaths then, of every hundred during operations, which operations in and of themselves, although attended by a temporary pain, have never been known to kill. In the light of these facts, is it romancing to say that the administration of any general anæsthetic is dangerous to the extent of being unjustifiable, when used for the performance of any operation in which the shock or danger from the anæsthetic will probably exceed that of the operation? It is not to be forgotten that although the patient may not change worlds while under anæsthesia, there frequently result life-long sequelæ which make the load of life a grievous burden.—*Archibald Dann, M.D., Dental Practitioner and Advertiser.*

WHAT OF CATAPHORESIS: IS IT PRACTICABLE, IS IT DESIRABLE?—These questions are asked almost daily. While we will not here attempt to answer these questions in detail, two or three things may be said. And first, a cataphoresis for the treatment of sensitive dentine or exposed tooth-pulps will not be successful in the hands of those ignorant of the properties of the very subtle agent used in this work: a very small per cent. of the profession, indeed, have given any attention or study to the subject of electricity, and are wholly incompetent to handle it with any definite results, and ought not to attempt its employment in the absence of a reasonable knowledge about it. The knowledge here indicated implies, of course, an acquaintance of the various instruments and appliances with which the agent is manipulated. To the second enquiry it may be replied, yes—in the hands of those competent to use it. From this it must not be inferred that the desired results can be obtained alike in all cases; there is an infinite variety in the susceptibility of different cases. This is true in regard to all methods of treatment, and of the action of all medical agents. That in the large proportion of cases of sensitive dentine, an entire reduction of that condition can be effected there is no doubt; but that in hands of the most skillful there will be occasional failures is equally certain. In many cases in which pulps are to be removed it serves an admirable purpose. In