

tity, the reverse indeed being the rule. A small dose, in some peculiar constitutions, having a powerfully poisonous effect. It is not long since we nearly lost a patient, from whose lip we were removing a fibrous tumour. The patient, a young girl of nervous temperament, took the chloroform readily, holding her arms up in the air and clenching her hands firmly. She made no efforts to remove the towel, there was no period of excitement observable, nor did she have any spasms. In a few minutes her arms gradually fell to her side, and we proceeded to operate. Her pulse at this time was full and regular, and her breathing perfectly tranquil. The operation, which occupied but a minute or two, was scarcely completed when we noticed that a great and sudden change had taken place in our patient. Her eye was fixed and glassy; her lips pale and bloodless, and her pulse almost imperceptible. We lost no time in having recourse to the manipulations recommended by Dr. Marshal Hall for the recovery of those in state of asphyxia; she was placed opposite an open window; ammonia was placed beneath her nostrils; and as soon as it became practicable stimulants were given internally. When she recovered, she stated that from the time of the first few inspirations of the chloroform vapour, she was entirely oblivious to everything, and was not conscious at the time of what was being done to her. The dose in this case was *forty-five minims*. As many cases of death have occurred then from the use of chloroform, it is not a substance to be given in every slight or trivial case. We cannot agree with Dr. Simpson that it should be administered in all labours whether natural or difficult, but rather side with those who would have its use confined exclusively to cases of difficult parturition.

Dr. Murphy, who has published an excellent little work, entitled "Chloroform, its properties and safety in child-birth," gives excellent rules for the administration of chloroform, which we transcribe for the benefit of our readers:—Rule 1st.—Let the chloroform be pure. If rubbed on the hands the smell should be fragrant, not pungent like sulphuric ether. If inspired there is a sense of warmth in the mouth, a fruity flavour, no pungency; if the strength of the vapour be sufficient, it will excite a slight cough; but if impure, the cough is irritating. About thirty minims will be sufficient in the first instance. 2nd.—When labour has commenced, do not interfere so long as the patient bears her pains well; if she be not teased with short, very severe and inefficient pains, chloroform need not be given; if, on the contrary, the severity of the first stage be such, the anguish of the patient so great, that pain is evidently a cause of prostration, chloroform may be given with great benefit. 3rd.—Always commence with a small dose, about thirty minims; if it agree with the patient no inconvenience is caused,