

entering the stomach, being absorbed by the proper vessels, and in no way interferes with the gastric juice, which is stored in its appropriate cells ready for action. The habit of commencing dinner with soup has without doubt its origin in the fact that aliment in this fluid form—in fact ready digested—soon enters the blood and rapidly refreshes the hungry man, who after a considerable fast and much activity sits down with a sense of exhaustion to commence his principal meal. In two or three minutes after taking a plate of good warm *consommé* the feeling of exhaustion disappears and irritability gives way to the gradually rising sense of good-fellowship with the circle. Some persons have the custom of allaying exhaustion with a glass of sherry before food—a gastronomic no less than a physiological blunder, injuring the stomach and depraving the palate. Soup introduces at once into the system a small instalment of ready-digested food and saves the short period of time which must be spent by the stomach in deriving some portion of nutriment from solid aliment, as well as indirectly strengthening the organ of digestion itself for its forthcoming duties.

THE FIRST INSENSIBILITY FROM ETHER.

For the short operations of minor surgery, and the reductions of dislocations, or opening of abscesses, it is extremely useful and of everyday application. Such a patient wishes to be operated upon without pain, or, from being incapacitated from attending to business during the remainder of the day. He lies down upon the sofa, and with one hand places the ether inhaler, on a sponge wet with ether, over his face, mouth and nose, and holds the other arm and hand up in the air.

This arm, after the ether has been breathed for a few minutes, will drop, and from thirty to fifty seconds of unconsciousness will be had, in which to operate. The sponge being removed, the patient is ready to go about his business. It gives rise to no headache, nausea, or other unpleasant symptoms, and is particularly useful in children. The chief source of disappointment is in not recognizing the right moment, for, if this is allowed to pass, unconsciousness will not occur until full etherization. The first insensibility is sure to come. When the arm moves, be ready, and as soon as it drops perform the operation; no pain will be felt.—*Medical Times*.

BLEACHING SPONGES.

This may be done without injuring the texture by first soaking them in a solution of mu-

riatic acid, made by adding a pint of acid to a gallon of water; this dissolves out the limestone, shells, etc. After this, rinse thoroughly, and then immerse the sponges in a solution of permanganate of potassa, containing an ounce of the latter to a gallon of water. Wring out the sponges, and put them into a solution made from one pound of hyposulphite of soda, one gallon of water, and one ounce of muriatic acid. This will immediately bleach them, after which they should be well washed with water to remove all traces of acid, etc.

A REMARKABLE CASE OF MALPRACTICE.

The *New York Hospital Gazette* gives the history of one of the most extraordinary procedures which has come to its knowledge. A patient affected with ankylosis of the cervical vertebræ falls into the hands of a homœopath, who evidently possesses about as much knowledge of his profession as an old woman. The deformity caused by the ankylosis is so great that the patient's head touches his chest. The physician, or, rather, attendant, accepts the patient's diagnosis of "rheumatism," concludes that the trouble is in the muscles, and advises an operation for the removal of the deformity. On the appointed day the patient is etherised, and his body and shoulders bound to the table by bandages. Additional bandages having been applied to the head, traction was made on these with all the strength that two men could exert, until the neck was straightened. During the pulling, sudden cracking noises were heard twice, but this caused no alarm to the surgeons (?) present, who continued their efforts, and finally succeeded in taking a human life by breaking the man's neck. The ancholysed union was fractured, and the patient died on the table.

If (says the *Hospital Gazette*) cases such as this do not incite the people to insist upon a higher standard of attainments for those to whom their lives are entrusted, we do not believe that college conventions, societies, or learned addresses delivered periodically by men connected with diploma mills will have the slightest effect. The case referred to gives evidence of the grossest ignorance and most barefaced assumption on the part of a person duly accredited an M.D. by the State laws. It is thus proven that the law fails to properly provide for the lives of the people by granting a licence to practise to men of this stamp, who, in defiance of all knowledge of anatomy, surgery, and pathology, apply the rude principles of mechanics to correct the deformities of a fellow-creature. We should expect more from a barbarian, about as much from an idiot.