

process of respiration is interrupted, we endeavour to restore it by artificial means. We open the windows to procure fresh air, dash cold water on the face to excite convulsive respiratory movements, turn the patient on his side to lessen the gravitative tendency of the vapour, and make artificial respiration by compressing the ribs after the manner of Dr. Marshall Hall. And when the vapour is sufficiently displaced from the lungs, by admixture with atmospheric air, circulation and respiration will be restored. For these reasons it was that Mr. McLeod in the Crimea always preferred to use chloroform in the open air."

I may remark that I believe that chloroform has not only a direct action on the capillaries of the lungs here described, but that by the production of spasm of the glottis, mechanical occlusion of the main air passage occurs, and the patient dies literally for want of breath. I believe that this spasm may sometimes be overcome by immediate extrusion of the tongue, whereby the larynx is opened, and air permitted to pass on, producing artificial respiration; but I have a strong impression that this is not always accomplished, but in certain cases the glottis remains closed, and therefore Marshall Hall's method is of no avail. I also believe that in cases similar to the one now under notice, the closing of the glottis does not altogether arise from infiltrations or œdema, but from paralysis of the nerves of the larynx, produced, as we sometimes see it, in rheumatic affections of the extremities, attended with infiltration.

I am aware that tracheotomy has been had recourse to in spasm of the glottis arising from hydrophobia, epilepsy, and drowning, though its propriety has been questioned. Should it be my fortune to meet with a case of asphyxia from either of these causes, or from chloroform, I should not hesitate to adopt a remedy which is attended with little risk, and which, for the reasons I have mentioned, I feel confident is the only one likely to prove successful under certain conditions.

I ought not to omit to mention that this case has given me a lesson which I am not likely to forget—one that will make me more than ever disposed to give greater weight to the deliberate conviction of the medical man who has watched the case throughout. I believe that had Dr. Rowand's opinion been acted on on the first day, much subsequent suffering and danger might have been avoided.

25 Ste. Geneviève Street, Quebec, 14th Dec., 1865.

LONDON CORRESPONDENCE.

In once more assuming the post of special correspondent to a newly established Medical Journal, in Montreal—the chief centre of general as