

I have seen nothing in the course of these experiments to warrant the belief that after the heart ceases to contract, and the circulation has been brought to an end, it could be restored by the action of oxygen on the blood in the capillaries of the lungs. This implies that the blood contained in these vessels has the power of spontaneous motion in itself; and as Muller observes, "The idea of spontaneous motion in a fluid independent of attraction or repulsion from the sides of another object is itself inconceivable." But if an attraction existed between the walls of the capillaries and the red globules of the blood, we do not see how this would aid the circulation as it would have a greater tendency to produce an accumulation of blood in the part, than to propel it forwards. The truth is that in all these cases where the circulation has been supposed to be restored by artificial respiration after the heart ceased to beat, it was only the first stage of asphyxia that had been reached that of insensibility and the cessation of the function of respiration. The heart still continued to contract, and the dark venous blood to circulate, however feeble may have been the power by which it was maintained.

In the application of these principles to cases of suspended animation, as drowning, &c., it is evident that as asphyxia depends on the want of oxygen to the blood, the most important remedial measure that can be adopted is its speedy restoration; and this will be accomplished by inflating the chest with atmospheric air. But every precaution must be taken to avoid force in the use of the remedy, or it will be apt to rupture the air cells and produce emphysema of the lungs. I have even seen injury produced by blowing the air too forcibly into the lungs of cold-blooded animals, the animal, though recovering at the time, never regained complete power over the function of respiration, but dying shortly afterwards from the effects of the means employed for its restoration. It has also been proposed to open the external jugular vein, and abstract blood as a means of unloading the distended state of the right auricle, and thereby increasing the action of the heart. But these remedies, to prove efficacious, must be used at an early period of asphyxia, before the circulation has been arrested, or the heart ceased to beat.

And it will be of no avail employing galvanism to stimulate the action of the heart, or external heat to maintain the temperature of the body, if the means of supplying oxygen to the blood be neglected. This must be considered an object of great and primary importance, and all other remedies should be subsidiary to it.

Bowmanville, 1st December, 1861.

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ART. LXV.—*Spontaneous passage of a piece of bougie, one inch and a half long, from the bladder.* By CHARLES PICAULT, M.D., Montreal.

The following case presents some unique and interesting features, and I therefore send it to the Journal for publication.

On the 10th of November last, I was consulted by a young man, labouring at the time under extreme mental anxiety. He told me that a few years ago, he had become afflicted with a stricture of the urethra, which occasionally inter-