

Fear is stronger than will, but under morphine a mental state is produced in which one is neither brave nor a coward, because this drug destroys the associational power of the brain, and the patient is let in a quiet state of mental and physical repose.

If we can, therefore, prevent fear and obtain an innocuous substitute for ether, and block harmful nerve impulses from the brain, we have a condition best described by the word *anoci-association*, that is one in which the patient is both mentally and physically protected from nocuous impulses or influences.

(The difference between anoci-association and anesthesia is as follows: Although inhalation anesthesia confers the beneficent loss of consciousness and protects from pain, it does not prevent the nerve impulses from reaching and fatiguing the brain cells, and hence does not prevent shock or the train of later nervous impairments so common following shock, i.e., neurasthenic post-operative states.)

The *prophylaxis*, therefore, which is to produce a state of *anoci-association* consists first in gaining the confidence of the patient, reassurance of a favorable outcome, the generous enough use of morphia before operation to produce a state of mental relaxation and content, nitrous oxide and oxygen anesthesia, nerve-blocking by cocaine or novocaine, great care to prevent loss of body heat, injury to tissues handled, and trauma to any but the immediate site of operation, speed reasonable to safety and a similar anocuous after-care. Crile, in abdominal operations, uses the quinine and urea hydrochlorate injected into the peritoneal edge before sewing up. The anesthesia produced locally by this drug lasts for 24 to 48 hours, and protects the patient almost entirely from the wound pain, as it is the pulling of peritoneum, which is the greatest factor in the causation of the post-operative wound pain.—*Med. Standard*.

DEATH BY ELECTRIC CURRENTS

The greatly extended use of electricity in the service of man during the past thirty years or so has not been wholly without its dangers to human life. A considerable amount of knowledge has been amassed during this period as to the precise manner in which electric currents prove fatal, and this has been ably set forth by Dr. A. J. Jex-Blake in the first two of the Goulstonian Lectures recently delivered by him before the Royal College of Physicians of London. Post-mortem evidence as to the cause of death by electric currents in industrial accidents has usually been negative,