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THE VIENNA MIXTURE.

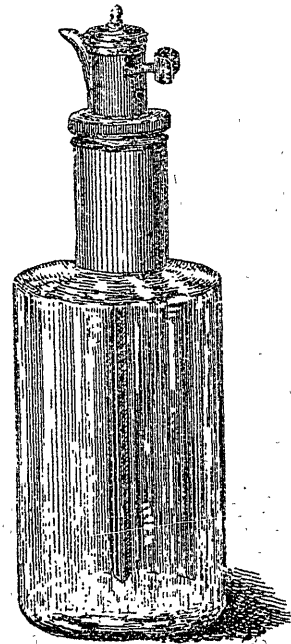
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During a visit to the British and European Hospitals, a medical man picks up here and there a great many points which he thinks are of more or less value; and it often happens, at least in my experience, that some little improvement in some line of treatment or method of procedure, from its great superiority over older ways or means, and from the frequency it is used, affords far greater satisfaction than other points of apparently at any rate at first sight much greater importance.

One day while in Vienna, in July, 1886, my friend, Dr. J. C. Cameron, drew my attention to the advantages of the anæsthetic used by Prof. Billroth and others at the Vienna Krankenhaus. It was a mixture of alcohol one part, ether one part, and chloroform three parts. I admit having had a little prejudice against these mixtures, of which we have had so many; but from what I saw of this mixture, I thought it worth while to try it. Accordingly, I provided myself with one of Leiter's improved anæsthetic bottles and an inhaler, and on my return home began to use it. I was so much pleased with its action, that since then I have used nothing else.

The mixture is prepared by adding together first the ether sulphuric one part (Squibbs), and then three parts of D. and F. chloroform made from pure alcohol. Some chemical action takes place as heat is produced; then dilute with one part of pure



alcohol. The bottle which I obtained from Leiter consists of an ordinary 4 oz. bottle, of the shape of an Eau-de-Cologne bottle, with a faucet attached to the neck and mouth, so that the flow is started or stopped by simply pushing to the right or left a little button. This arrangement allows a little stream to escape which can be checked instantly. The inhaler consists of a light metallic framework, with a handle and a porous woollen cover which can be easily removed and cleansed. The arches of the inhaler close down, bringing the inhaler into smaller volume for carrying. The advantages, which I find this anæsthetic and mode of administration to possess are the following: