

merly, amounting to upwards of a dozen published cases a year in England alone, apart from a much larger number of *un*-published ones, has created well founded alarm, and the favourite anæsthetic of our neighbours, with the bichloride of methyl, are attracting a large share of attention. The mortality returns published by Dr. Morgan show that we are using the most hazardous of all the anæsthetics:

1 death to 23,204 administration of ether.	
1 " to 5,588 " of ether and chloroform.	
1 death to 5,000 " bichloride of methyl.	
1 death to 2,873 " chloroform.	

The chief objection urged against ether—the length of time required to induce insensibility—is not tenable, as ether properly administered will induce complete anæsthesia in as short a time as chloroform, though the struggles during its administration may be greater. Our experience of the bichloride of methyl is yet too limited to warrant any general remarks.

*Fractures.*—The comfort of patients has been greatly added to by the treatment of fractures generally, by extension with weights and pulleys, without pads, without bandages or rollers, without splints of wood, gypsum, starch or glue. Thanks are chiefly due to an American surgeon (Gordon Buck) for this vast improvement.

*Dislocations.*—To another American surgeon, Nathan Smith, is due the credit of the ready method of reducing dislocation by the surgeon's unaided efforts; and traction with pulleys is now rarely resorted to.

*Skin Grafting.*—Large surfaces of denuded integument are now covered by healthy skin taken from another part of the body, or from the body of another, and grafted in small pieces on the raw surface. So important is this method of Reverdin, that I quite agree with Morton in styling it "one of the greatest surgical advances, if not the greatest, of the present age."

*Electrolysis.*—Though this is the age of bold and daring surgery, there are places where even the boldest and most daring dare not enter his knife. Here the surgical chemist comes to his relief. Electrolysis has become so important an adjunct to the armamentaria of the surgeon as to induce an American writer to style it, from its perfect manageability, the king of Cauterics (he meant the President no doubt). Where extensive tumours are to be removed, without the loss of blood, in patients of feeble health; where dis-

figurements would follow the use of the knife; and where local and general irritation are to be avoided, *a tout prix*, electrolysis, by means of the *positive* as well as, the negative *electrode* with needles of zinc or platinum, has, in the hands of Stroh, of Olmutz, in Austria, and of Althaus, in London, and of others, been most serviceable. It does seem a fanciful proceeding to introduce needles into a solid mass, however large, and in situations, however deep, and with a prolonged and feeble current, without chloroform or ether, or, with a powerful stream with anæsthesia, to dissipate it into thin air (hydrogen) leaving scarcely "a wreck behind" of shrunken, grey or brownish tissue, harmless, innocent, innocuous. Nævus, lupus, sarcoma, cancer have, in these ways, been made to disappear. And intelligence reaches us from Italy, France, Great Britain, and the United States, of the apparently successful employment of electrolysis (under the name of galvano puncture) in aortic and other aneurisms. Ciniselli mentions, in "Il Galvani," having treated five cases, in three years, of thoracic aneurism alone. Granting, however, to electrolysis, much that is claimed for it, it can never take the place of the knife; but there are cases occasionally met with where the knife is inadmissible, and where the method of Groh and of Althaus, judiciously employed, has attained a success to dissipate the smile of incredulity with which their method was first received by the profession.

*Galvanic Cautery.*—As a corollary, the galvanic cautery, as recently introduced by Marshall, is another weapon in our hands for warring against peccant disease, and, like the invention of Chassaignac (over which it has no advantage,) is a safe instrument to be used by the timid, who prefer the sere dry edges of a wound, to the trouble of looking for, and the risk of not easily finding and securing, the divided vessels.

*L'Aspirateur.*—The last general method I shall notice is the aspirating syringe and exploring needle, destined to be of much advantage to surgery—though not, as some claim, invariably without danger. While on the one hand it has been repeatedly used, and with advantage, in distended bladder and strangulated hernia, in empyema and in purulent peritonitis, without untoward symptoms, its use has been followed by death in at least one instance, where, *a priori*, no danger would seem to be reasonably apprehended. Cysts, anywhere and everywhere, are treated with it, and whether as an aid to diagnosis or to treatment, abscesses of the liver periodical effusions, and dropsical swellings of the joints, are dealt satisfactorily with by this pneumatic method.