

is opportune to tender a vote of thanks to our President for the able paper which he has given us to-night. I feel Dr. Cogswell has given us something on which we can ruminate—those here who are in the habit of indulging in the weed.

Upon motion of Dr. Godsoe, seconded by Dr. Robertson, a vote of thanks was extended to Dr. Cogswell for his able paper, to which Dr. Cogswell made a short reply.

Paper read by Dr. Murray, of Moncton, N.B. Subject, "Nitrous Oxide Gas."

Dr. ROBERTSON—I was taught when at college that if ammonium nitrate is heated too highly you produce nitric oxide, an acid decidedly poisonous. That I think Dr. Murray was slightly mistaken in. I think that if a person inhaled a gallon of that they would probably be a fit subject for a coffin. I have had a little experience with nitrous oxide. I once had a medical man bring a patient to me. The patient was one who, after I had administered a few gallons of gas, began to discolor. The young lady was about nineteen. The doctor took hold of the patient's wrist to feel the pulse and did that repeatedly until I got annoyed, and finally he dropped it. He said to me afterwards he had never seen nitrous oxide gas administered and I did my best to explain. A barber came into my office with a lower second molar to be extracted. I found my cylinder contained 50 gallons of gas. I administered gas to that man until my arm got tired holding the inhaler. You could just see him make an effort, but he could not raise his fingers. I told him I was going to extract the tooth and I could see his lips move a very very little. However, I dropped the inhaler and extracted the tooth. He said afterwards he was very sorry at the time he could not prevent it, but was glad afterwards that he could not. I found he had inhaled 45 gallons of gas. If a patient ceases to respire with me I have a small bottle, about an ounce, containing ether. I lift the head from the rest and pour about a table-spoonful down the back; it is just like so much ice-water, and the effect is very beneficial. To me it seems ridiculous for people speaking of dentists administering anæsthetics to people with heart disease. I would like to ask any dentist if he ever came across anyone about to have a tooth extracted who had not a weak heart. I think we, as members of the profession, and I am sure the majority of the medical profession, cannot tell just who have weak hearts. Take the accidents which happen under chloroform; they happen almost entirely in the hands of those who are professors in colleges and experienced men; that is what I glean from the journals; I have yet to hear of an accident happening in the hands of an inexperienced man. I have had some rather disagreeable experiences with chloroform. I had one patient a short time ago and a young medical man came with him to my office. We had about half an ounce of chloroform, D and F, the best you can get.