

ducing agent, the other an oxidizing agent. As the antidotal action is chemic rather than physiologic, it is essential that the permanganate be administered soon after the ingestion of the opiate. It was first believed that the permanganate is without influence after the opiate has been absorbed, but experiments upon animals seem to indicate that if the former is introduced into the veins at not too great an interval after the ingestion or injection of the latter an antidotal influence is also exercised.

MODERN PATHOLOGICAL BUBBLES. — Says *The New Albany Herald*:—there was a coal-tar bubble, a most promising one, brilliant with all the anilin colors; and it swelled and swelled until it filled the whole medical horizon. For thousands of years physicians had cried out in agony: "If we could only find some remedy to still this raging fire of fever that is consuming our patients!" Now, in the fullness of time, the greatest remedy had been discovered—the enthusiasm spread like wild-fire—even cool heads became heated—King Cure-all had descended in our midst. Meantime, while the whole medical profession was chasing madly this gay bubble, a patient, plodding German was reducing the mortality of typhoid fever from 25 to 2½ per cent. by the use of cold baths, and treating 356 cases in his private practice with but one death. Then skeptics arose who questioned the divinity of King Cureall. One, bolder than the others, said: "What is this fever that you seem so anxious to reduce? What do you expect to accomplish by reducing it?" And slowly the huge bubble gravitated earthward. Even as we write, another bubble, composed of animal extracts, rises above the horizon. *Sunt fuerunt, vel fuere.*

DANGER IN NITROUS OXIDE GAS.—The importance to dentists of being protected by the presence of a medical man, *Med. Times*, when nitrous-oxide gas is being administered, was strikingly shown on Monday last, at the dental surgery of Mr. Creasy, Aldersgate Street, E. C. A young man, about twenty-five years of age, called at Mr. Creasy's surgery to have a tooth extracted. The dentist sent for his neighbour, Dr. Adams, to administer nitrous-oxide gas. Apparently the young man took the gas well, the tooth was extracted, but to the astonishment of the doctor and the dentist, his

breathing failed, and in spite of all that could be done the patient died. An inquest was held, and the usual verdict, exonerating the doctor and dentist from blame, was given. Dr. Adams stated to the coroner and jury that he had administered nitrous-oxide gas to some 30,000 or 40,000 patients. But such accidents will happen at times to the most careful and experienced.

PARALDEHYD HABIT.—In the *Edinburgh Med. Jour.* is reported the case of a man, aged 65, admitted as a voluntary patient to the Royal Asylum, Edinburgh, November 23rd, 1892, who was addicted to inordinate use of paraldehyd. Two years before, he began the use of the drug for the relief of insomnia, from which he had long suffered; and the dose was gradually increased until shortly before he entered the asylum he was taking sixteen ounces per week. He had lost twenty-eight pounds in weight, and was so feeble he required to be fed like a child. The action of the heart was weak and irregular, the appetite abnormally large; and he likewise suffered from hallucinations of sight and hearing, and from delusions of unpleasant character. He proved a most troublesome patient, but was finally discharged in good health, on the 21st of February of the current year.

CHLORAL HYDRATE IN LABOR.—Garner, *Lancet*, in an article upon the efficacy of chloral hydrate in labor, states that it has a great effect in assisting the dilatation of the os uteri and relaxing the rigidity of the perineum. He described the cases of three primiparæ, in which he had used the drug. No post partum hæmorrhage followed, nor was there any delay or difficulty in the expulsion of the placenta. He thinks that the chloral might take the place of chloroform in many cases, if given in a small repeated dose during the long and tedious labor of the primipara. The writer stated that it did not seem to diminish the expulsive power of the pains, as have often been noticed in chloroform cases. Dr. Garner recommends that the chloral might be further tried in place of chloroform inhalation in primiparæ, in order to relieve the rigid perineum and so to avoid having to use forceps.

A NEW WAY TO EXECUTE CRIMINALS.—A bill has been introduced in the Legislature of Ohio,