

Dr. Cook said that so far, no one has given us any idea as to the best means to adopt to recover a patient from the effects of the gas. He had, at one time, used it to a considerable extent, but had now abandoned it altogether.

Dr. Fowler could not answer Dr. Pritchard's question, as to whether oxygen was obtained from the gas, while in the lungs. He had given it probably ten thousand times to patients, and so far, has never met with any serious results; he had given it six times in succession to the same patient; he gave it in one instance to a person very seriously affected with disease of the heart.

The President thought that nitrous oxide as an anæsthetic was a failure. He had never seen but one person perfectly unconscious from its administration.

Dr. Requa replied that, in some instances, the presence of the patient's friends seemed to distract the mind, and prevent the gas from taking full effect. He had no trouble in getting patients fully under its influence when all is quiet. He can tell when the patient is fully anæsthetised by the appearance of the countenance, and the eye. He always sees that the dress is loose enough to allow a full expansion of the lungs.

Mr. Trotter remarked that this is a very important subject, requiring a great deal of time to be spent in experimenting. As yet there appeared to be no definite idea as to the therapeutical effect, or the *modus operandi*, of the drug on the system.

Dr. Whitney said he did not believe that any one knows how anæsthetics act on the system. He agreed with Mr. Trotter that there ought to be more really scientific knowledge among us, as to the effects of anæsthetics.

Dr. Simpson, himself the discoverer of chloroform, has never given us any definite idea as to its *modus operandi*. He thought that all theories as to the therapeutical effects of anæsthetics were purely theories. The blood becomes venous from a want of oxygen, and an excess of carbonic acid gas. Does not think that one particle of oxygen is obtained from the nitrous oxide. It was a rule with him never to give an anæsthetic to a patient with a full stomach; an hour and a half should elapse after eating before he would be willing to give an anæsthetic. He objected to giving nitrous oxide from a bag, as the patient in that case would breathe the same thing over.