

While the comparison drawn of the risks attending the use of cocaine as an anæsthetic with that of chloroform or ether is rather strained to the advantage of cocaine, still it must be admitted that, as the action of cocaine becomes more generally understood, and the best means of meeting the toxic symptoms, when they exist, appreciated, fatalities will rarely occur at the hands of competent persons; whereas, with chloroform, and, to a lesser extent, with ether, the experience of the past will practically be the experience of the future.

We are in hearty accord with the author when he presses the claim of cocaine as the anæsthetic in strangulated hernia, especially if the patient be advanced in years, or the strangulation of some standing; the diminished shock and lessened pulmonary irritation (ether) would seem to give the patient a distinctly better chance for life.

Dr. Manley deals with the subject of local anæsthetics and analgesias, locally applied, the indications and technique for local anæsthetics, the method of employing cocainization in the different departments of surgery (operations and injuries), the dosage for the different parts of the body, as well as the steps to be taken in case an overdose be administered.

We advise those in the habit of employing cocaine as a local anæsthetic to read the book.

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A MANUAL OF MODERN SURGERY, GENERAL AND OPERATIVE. By John Chalmers DaCosta, M.D. Demonstrator of Surgery, Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia; Chief-Assistant Surgeon, Jefferson Medical College Hospital; Surgical Registrar, Philadelphia, etc. One very handsome volume of over 700 pages, with a large number of illustrations. (Double number) price, cloth, \$2.50 net.

In his preface the author explains that "the work seeks to stand between the complete but cumbrous text-book and the incomplete but concentrated compend"; that the effort has been to present the subject in a form useful alike to the student and the busy practitioner. Ophthalmology, gynæcology, rhinology, otology, and laryngology have not been considered. Only the specialist is competent to write upon each of these branches. In orthopædic surgery are discussed those conditions which must, in the very nature of things, often be cared for by the surgeon or general practitioner.

Dr. DaCosta, in his "Manual of Modern Surgery," supplies us with what is largely a compilation—a good compilation—of the recent contributions upon this subject. The work is suggestive, not exhaustive; too suggestive for a student who has no previous knowledge to draw upon, not sufficiently exhaustive for the practitioner who, after he has expanded the means usually relied upon, is looking anxiously for further light, that he may be enabled at once to save his patient and protect his reputation. The elimination of so much surgical work on the ground of its being specialized materially reduces the value of the work to the rank and file of the profession. In the main, the descriptions of the operative procedures discussed are clear, though brief, but we miss the indications for the different forms of treatment suggested, and also some caution as to the dangers to be encountered, with a hint as to the best way to meet them, as well as suggestions upon the important subject of after-treatment.