

WILL REGULATE ANAESTHETICS

Members of English General Medical Council take Action Because of Recent Deaths — Want Legal Restrictions.

London, Jan. 14.—Widespread discussion of the advisability of additional use of anaesthetics has been precipitated by the deaths within the last few days of at least four patients in London and adjacent hospitals while under the influence of anaesthesia preparatory to undergoing surgical operations.

The recent session of Parliament was marked by the introduction of a number of bills bearing on this problem, and now the General Medical Council has taken action in the matter and placed its conclusion in the hands of the Lord President of the Privy Council for that body's consideration. The important points endorsed by the council are:

"That it is desirable in the public interest that the administration of anaesthetics for the purpose of inducing unconsciousness or insensibility to pain during medical, surgical, obstetrical and dental operations or procedures should be restricted by law to duly qualified medical practitioners, due provision being made for the practical instruction of students and for cases of emergency.

"That it is expedient in the public interest to provide that the person who administers the anaesthetic for the purpose of inducing unconsciousness during any medical, surgical or dental operation or procedure, due provision being made for cases of emergency.

As to Dental Practice. Upon the point which has aroused the greatest discussion, the position of the dentist with regard to the administration of certain specified anaesthetics, the council contends that it is desirable in the public interest that duly qualified dental practitioners should be authorized to administer certain specified anaesthetics, such as nitrous oxide and ethyl ether, but that no other anaesthetic should be used, and that no interference with accepted dental practice that would have been implied in the proposed prohibition of the qualified dentist to use gas.

At the outset the Privy Council had submitted a projected bill to the General Medical Council, a clause of which provided that "any registered medical practitioner who gives a certificate of death in the case of a person dying while under the influence of an anaesthetic shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a penalty not exceeding five pounds."

This was objected to by the latter body as creating, without any necessity, a new offence of a highly penal character. The object intended was to obtain correct death registration statistics, but it was contended that these could be obtained by a system of notification such as is in force in the case of infectious diseases. The members of the General Medical Council decided also that no legislation was necessary among the lines of certain provisions of the Privy Council's projected measure, which ran thus:

Registered Practitioner.

"That no one but a registered medical practitioner should administer, or cause to be administered, any drug or substance with the object of producing unconsciousness during any medical or surgical operation, act or procedure, under penalty not exceeding £10 (\$50), and in the case of a second or subsequent conviction, to a penalty not exceeding £20 (\$100), unless the person was acting under the immediate direction of a qualified medical practitioner, or if he had reasonable grounds for believing that delay in obtaining the services of a qualified practitioner would have endangered life.

"That all examining bodies recognized by the General Medical Council should require that all candidates for final examinations should have received thorough instruction in anaesthetics, and should have personally administered anaesthetics under the supervision of teachers."

For the public safety, however, the General Medical Council does hold that it is desirable that the anaesthetic should be administered by a qualified person other than the operator, so that his mind should not be diverted from the condition of the patient. In medical and surgical practice the belief prevails that this provision certainly will become law.

NURSE GIVES LIFE TO SAVE PATIENT

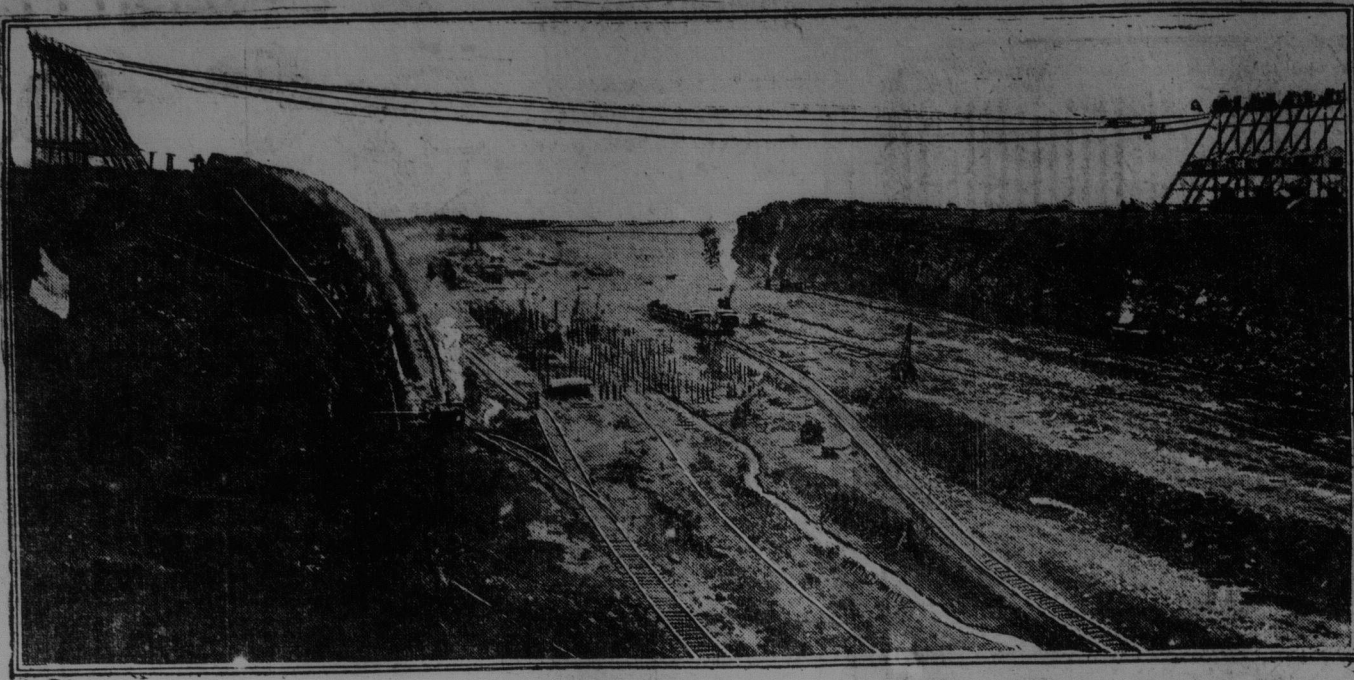
Trenton, N. J., Jan. 14.—Although she might have saved herself instead of her patient, Miss Elizabeth Combe, a nurse in the Mercer Hospital here, sacrificed her life today in performing her duties in the institution. The young woman was crushed to death in an elevator shaft in the hospital, but the patient whom she saved does not know of the nurse's heroism. The young woman will be buried tomorrow.

Miss Combe was one of the most popular young women of Trenton. She met death bravely, and but for her display of courage two lives would have been sacrificed instead of one.

The nurse was instructed to convey a helpless patient from the third floor in the hospital to the first, where the operating room is situated. In this work she operated an elevator alone, and stopped the elevator at the first floor. She was just removing the cot bearing the invalid when she felt the elevator moving upward. Instantly she pushed the cot back toward the enclosure to prevent the patient from being injured, but as she did so the elevator shot upward crushing her head, dragging her for a distance and then dropping her into the pit twenty feet below.

The patient did not suffer even a scratch, but the youthful nurse died a few moments after the hospital internes arrived at her side. Her face was crushed beyond all recognition.

WAGING A FEUD WITH DISEASE AND DEATH IN OVERCOMING THE BARRIERS OF NATURE



Here is the Very Latest Photograph Taken Down on the Panama Canal, Where the American People's Money is Being Used by the Carload to Bring Forth Gigantic Transformations of Nature. The Picture Shows the Progress Today of the Work Where the Gatun Dam Will Finally Stand. When Completed, this Piece of Work will Be the Monumental Engineering Feat of the Whole Project. The Photograph Shows How a Mountain of Earth and Rock Has Been Dug and Blasted out, Leaving a Great Valley. The Next Step Will Be to Build the Dam, Which Will Be a Mountain of Concrete and Granite, Intended to Hold Back a Lake of Water, Through Which the Ships of the World Will Pass. Side of the Big Cut. About the Middle of the Picture are Shown the Stakes or Anchors for the Beginning of the Concrete Work. It's a Job for Giants. This Gatun Dam, and Giant Minds and Giant American Workmen are Directing the Task.

Down in the swampy, fever-stricken jungle of the Isthmus of Panama the canal which is to connect the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans at tide-water is being constructed by the United States Government at a cost now estimated at \$500,000,000. The work, when completed, after two previous gigantic failures, may well be regarded as the greatest industrial victory in the history of the world.

It is an undertaking constantly beset with dangers of disease and death. A swath through the jungle fifty miles long and ten miles wide constitutes the canal zone, and in it are scores of settlements, with a total population of over 64,000, all under the Government and paternal supervision of Uncle Sam. The millions of cubic yards of dirt to be removed, and the early fifties from Colon to Panama

of life and death were solved. The pioneer route over the Isthmus. It was built to make money, and by rates that constituted a colossal hold-up, it has earned net profits of \$75,000,000. In 1879 De Lesseps undertook the construction of the canal under French auspices, spending a billion francs, only to end in failure. In 1902 the American Government secured the railway and work thus far done for \$40,000,000, and since then

have been making the dirt fly. It is estimated that 142,000,000 cubic yards of earth had to be excavated, which is now being done at the rate of about 3,000,000 cubic yards per month. Sixty-seven steam shovels are at work and a little world, fed from New York, gathered from forty nations, and ruled with the force of a benevolent despotism, are doing what will ultimately redound to the credit of the whole human race.

NEW GALLERY TO DISAPPEAR

Famous Landmark of London is Marked for Demolition and with it "Jeffrey's Steps" an Interesting Link.

London, Jan. 14.—Londoners will regret the customary way in which newspapers are wont to announce the passing away of old landmarks or buildings of historic interest to make way for architectural or other improvements. But, the disappearance of such landmarks has been pretty frequent of late years. Londoners, much less than strangers, are as a rule calm and indifferent to their losses. The recent demolition of Crosby Hall was an exception, but that was only saved to the nation at the last moment by the strenuous efforts of a comparatively small body of enthusiasts.

It now remains to see whether Londoners "will regret" the disappearance of the old "Jeffrey's Steps" in Pall Mall and the New Gallery. The New Gallery cannot be styled as of historic interest, for it was founded by art enthusiasts for the purpose of fostering a taste for modern art. The institution has fallen solely through modern indifference. For more than twenty years it has held a notable position as a place for the exhibition of the work of the best artists of the day. And now its career is coming to an end and will be converted into—some say a restaurant, others say to a place of entertainment. In any case the days of the New Gallery are over.

"This is a lamentable proof," writes a correspondent in one of the morning papers, "of the lack of taste and intelligence of the present generation and the want of aesthetic imagination by which the noblest of cultured classes of the community are now afflicted."

The "Jeffrey's Steps" is one of the most interesting links with the seventeenth century in London. It is a flight of queer old steps—long since fallen into disuse—which at one time led from Delahay street into St. James' Park.

The steps are worn and green with age; a rusty iron railing still guards them in a haphazard sort of way, but the most interesting about them is the fact that they were a concession by James II. to the notorious Judge Jeffreys, whose name is always associated in history with the "Bloody Assize" arising from the Monmouth rebellion. Jeffreys was his sovereign's subservient agent, and as he lived close by in park the King gave him special permission to make his flight of steps there from his house.

The Local Government Board Offices are now being extended right along to the edge of St. James' Park, so everything in the way has to go, including the steps and some delightful old Pickwickian houses in Delahay street.

THE VANISHING OF PIGTAILS IN CHINA

Strange tidings come from China. They are talking of abolishing the pigtail. The reasons given are that it is unsanitary, that it is an object of derision among foreigners, and that it is not in keeping with modern sentiment. One reformer, who may stand alone, is reported as arguing that the great objection to the pigtail is that it involves shaving the head in front. "This allows cold to get to the brain and prevents clear thinking." But it is said that the really powerful argument against the pigtail is not the opinion of anyone living, but the opinion of the dead.

Chas. W. Morse's Prison Shows Last Word In Penal Science

Federal Institution at Atlanta Operates With Precision of Clock Work — Among Former Ice Kings 785 Associates are Men From Every Walk and Degree of Life — Gaynor and Greene Concede Place to Erstwhile Banker — His Occupation Undecided.

Atlanta, Ga., Jan. 14.—Atlanta's federal prison, which again has come into public notice—this time as the temporary abiding place of Mr. Charles Wyman Morse, New York's one time "ice king" banker and consolidator of steamship companies—has housed comparatively few millionaires—as yet.

So in Mr. Charles W. Morse this federal prison, at least to present date, has its real star prisoner. There have been lesser lights within these eight years, some who yet loomed big by comparison, but these are now in eclipse. And among those few, there are some members of the Jacobs band of counterfeiters from Pennsylvania, but these and others of equal note were forgotten when Greene and Gaynor came and now these, too, are almost forgotten or overshadowed by the latest comer. All are dipped in that deep and silent Lethe which to men of the world leaves a vulnerable spot. Name, identity, everything but life, and much of that, absorbed in a number, meaningless except to those few but there to know its meaning.

And among those few, there is none who will furnish aids to memory for the satisfaction of the curious. They will tell you about the institution; that it contains 785 prisoners, by the last count; that 62 are employed in the tailor shop; that so many are cutting stone or doing other work; but of identity or history of No. 2,056 or No. 2,348 not one word or whisper.

Twenty Nationalities. Among Mr. Morse's associates are thirteen Indians, about two hundred and seventy-five negroes and some five hundred white men, among whom twenty nationalities are represented in about one hundred foreign born. Analyzing a little further from figures presented in the dry government report, it may be learned that the most of his daily associates are one advertising agent, a couple of artists, an even dozen of bankers, nine bartenders, three cigar makers, four contractors, one dressmaker, five engravers who have misused their talents, farmers and laborers galore men in many other callings, besides chauffeurs, coachmen, brokers, cooks and butlers.

The records show there are among them some seventy embezzlers of various kinds, nineteen of whom made improper use of national bank funds; sixty-eight murderers, 125 counterfeiters, fifty or so illicit distillers, better known as "moonshiners," numbers of other violations of the internal revenue laws, post office robbers, those who have used the mails to convey coal from the unsuspecting, seven "white slave" traders and three who wilfully sold oleomargarine as real butter.

These are some of the classes of men, whose crimes include almost every one enumerated in the Revised Statutes, with whom Mr. Charles W. Morse sits down to meals three times a day in the big dining room with row after row of long benches and narrow tables, where the only sound heard is that of hungry men eating, for all conversation is forbidden.

They were scrubbing the hardwood dining room floors as we went through. "This is done twice a day," remarked the clerk.

"Why so often?" "Often?" "You should see these floors after each meal."

Cleanliness absolute is one thing upon which Warden Moyer imperatively insists.

"You may see considerable scrubbing going on this morning," he said, "but rather think about the effect than the fact. The day after tomorrow the floor will be scrubbed again."

"Hold up your right hand for more bread."

"Hold up your cup for more coffee or."

"Hold up your fork for meat."

"Hold up your spoon for soup."

"And if you knife for vegetables."

"Hold up your left hand for permission to speak to any officer about the food or service in the dining room."

Frivolous or groundless complaints are discouraged by prospect of punishment where they are shown to be entirely unjustified.

As a convict of the first grade Mr. Morse is entitled to all the rights and he may retain them as long as he holds that grade by good behavior, but once lost by misconduct it may never be retrieved. As a first grade convict, he was furnished, upon entering the prison, a suit of blue denim. Stripes are worn only by the men who work outside and by those in the lower grades through some infraction of the rules. Stamped upon the back of his blouse coat or jacket is the inscription "U. S. P. 2814," the letters just above the number. Some of the "musts" and "must not" in the rule book furnished to each prisoner run like this:—

"You must keep your person, clothing, bedding, cell and library books clean and neat."

"You must transact all of your business through the warden's office. Any attempt to smuggle clandestine letters in or out of the penitentiary will be severely punished."

Discipline Is Strict. "You must keep your head erect and face to the front when marching in line."

"You must always approach an officer or guard in a respectful manner, uncovering your head if within doors, and touching your hat or cap, if out of doors, before speaking to him."

"You must not chew tobacco while marching in line, or while in the dining room."

"You must not smoke in your cells at any time, except during the hours of recreation, and then only in the designated places."

"Your cell is subject to search at any time, and if articles are found that might be used to injure persons or property, you will be dealt with as attempting to escape."

on Broadway, or even in the "beef and" parlors could Mr. Morse have bought three such meals at an actual cash outlay of only 4.6 cents?

Eating must begin and cease by signal; it may cost something in privileges to begin too quickly. While speaking is forbidden except in certain cases, there are ways of making conveyer, he was furnished, upon entering the prison, a suit of blue denim. Stripes are worn only by the men who work outside and by those in the lower grades through some infraction of the rules. Stamped upon the back of his blouse coat or jacket is the inscription "U. S. P. 2814," the letters just above the number. Some of the "musts" and "must not" in the rule book furnished to each prisoner run like this:—

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NEW DEFENCE FOR DR. COOK

Correspondent to English Paper has Theory as to Reason for "Explorer's" Yarns — Loneliness to Blame.

London, Jan. 14.—A correspondent to an English paper comes forward with a new defence of Dr. Cook—not a brief for the authenticity of his discovery, merely a new theory as to what made him spin his yarns.

It is quite possible writes this correspondent, that Dr. Cook in his loneliness suffered as do many other men who spend their time in lonely places and who keep themselves to themselves, as the saying is. The result of such loneliness nearly always brings on the habit of talking to one's self, and there are hundreds of men in the Australian bush today who are suffering from some slight and harmless mental aberration owing to these causes. They are commonly described as "whackers," but whether the derivation of the term is the expression "mad as a hatter" or whether it is from the common habit of such men placing their awags (their worldly possessions) rolled up in a cylindrical bundle, upright and placing their hat on the top of it before entering into a conversation, I am unable to say. They are all so said to be "ratty," which is more easily understood as being descriptive of a man not in his right senses and seeing imaginary things. I knew a man who had a stake fixed upright in his tent, on which he placed his hat, and he would lie in his bunk and get up long and violent arguments with the imaginary individual it covered.

But the man who had suffered most from loneliness in my experience, adds my correspondent, was an Irishman, a carpenter by trade, and a very turn individual, who would go for quite long periods without speaking to anyone and when he eventually broke silence would tell the most incredible stories one could imagine. He and two sisters were orphans, and had been for some time when I first met them, and as I was friendly with them, and often compared notes with them on the different conditions of life in the colonies and the old country, I fancy that what they told me of their family would be correct, but at different times the brother told me of prominent Irishmen, whose death was reported in the papers, and spoke of them as his father; in one case he was evidently suffering from some emotion, yet he never seemed to consider it was important to his story that the names mentioned in the newspaper reports were entirely different from his own. I knew also that he had never visited America, but he told me the most wonderful tales about his experience in that country. I am convinced that he believed every word of what he said in his own mind, and that it was due to his habit of spending all his spare time alone reading, thinking over what he read, and romancing about himself by placing himself in the position of an actual participant of what he read about.

An amusing case of poaching was exposed not long ago by means of one of the Berlin police dogs. A certain shoemaker. The man was not at home, but the dog was allowed to go through his rooms. In a few minutes Fricka had carried away, directly to the edge of a small lake near by. She made repeated efforts to plunge into the water, but was prevented from so doing until her master concluded that there might be some "thing in it," and in a few minutes she had located the missing strongbox, which had been sunk in the lake near the bank. The shoemaker, who was arrested, at first denied his guilt, but finally confessed. Fricka has also located several murderers, who would have escaped easily from the ordinary searches made by the police.

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DOGS IN THE BERLIN POLICE

Thirty Dogs in Canine Department of German Capital's Police Force in Various Stages of Training.

Berlin, Jan. 14.—In the canine department of the Berlin police force there are about thirty dogs, which are either fully trained for the purpose or in the course of being trained. The breeds selected for this work are German shepherds, Alredale terriers and Doberman pinschers. The German sheppdog breed, however, has the preference.

Through the courtesy of Major Klein, who has charge of this part of the Berlin police business, I have had an opportunity of seeing the dogs at work in their training, and I observed that this sheppdog outgrowth of the wild wolf leads all others in Germany with but few exceptions, in the art of following a scent and catching criminals.

Major Klein, who is a veteran of three wars, handles his branch of the "police" service in a very systematic and military manner, dividing it into departments, with a policeman specially charged with the education and handling of each dog.

"We began the work only four years ago," said Major Klein, "but the results have been remarkably satisfactory. Where human intelligence fails and leaves off the canine instinct takes up the work. In scores of cases our cleverest detectives have been obliged to give up entirely and leave the trail to the dogs."

I observed that none of the Berlin dogs was of the Belgian Groenendael type, which is so highly prized by the French police, and Major Klein replied that he pinned most of his faith to the German sheppdog. One gets the impression that there is a little more system here than in Paris with regard to the police dog service, and there is certainly less of the experimenting with various breeds.

Frack, a three-year-old sheppdog, with grayish mixed coat and yellow muzzle, is considered one of the best of his kind. He is thoroughly trained, and among his accomplishments is that of clearing a jump 20 centimetres at the high jump test. Nice, a black and white race, also three years old, is another who has made a good record in the service.

The exploits of the Berlin police dogs have already made a very respectable showing on the records. It is natural to suppose that the best results in tracking criminals are obtained outside the city limits, where the scent remains longer. A couple of murder cases, one at Boguslawiec, in Posen, and the other at Dalmien, were rendered all the more interesting recently by the detection and co-operation of the police dogs from Berlin.

An Alredale named Fricka furnished an exception to the rule of sheppdog superiority, as she is one of the best that have been used for detective purposes anywhere. One of her cleverest accomplishments was the finding of a costly watch, stolen from the Osterode residence of a Berlin merchant.

After having the scent given her Fricka went straight to the house of a certain shoemaker. The man was not at home, but the dog was allowed to go through his rooms. In a few minutes Fricka had carried away, directly to the edge of a small lake near by. She made repeated efforts to plunge into the water, but was prevented from so doing until her master concluded that there might be some "thing in it," and in a few minutes she had located the missing strongbox, which had been sunk in the lake near the bank. The shoemaker, who was arrested, at first denied his guilt, but finally confessed. Fricka has also located several murderers, who would have escaped easily from the ordinary searches made by the police.

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