

used for this purpose up to the present time are ether, chloroform, amylene, laudanum, morphia hypodermically, chloral by the mouth and by injection.

3. Of these chloroform seems to be preferable.

4. It should be administered according to the method of Snow, that is, in small doses at the beginning of each pain, its administration being suspended during the intervals.

5. It should never be pushed to complete insensibility, but the patient should be held in a state of semi-anæsthesia, so as to produce a diminution of the suffering.

6. The general rule is never to administer chloroform except during the period of expulsion; but in certain cases of nervousness and extreme agitation it is advantageous not to wait for the complete dilatation of the os.

7. Experience has shown that anæsthetics do not arrest the contractions of the uterus or abdominal muscles, but that they weaken the natural resistance of the perineal muscles.

8. The use of anæsthetics has no unpleasant effect on the mind of mother or upon the child.

9. In lessening the suffering, anæsthetics render a great service to those women who dread the pain; they diminish the chances of the nervous crisis which are caused during labor by the excess of suffering; they make the recovery more rapid.

10. They are specially useful to calm the great agitation and cerebral excitement which labor often produces in very nervous women.

11. Their employment is indicated in natural cases until the pains are suspended or retarded by the suffering caused by maladies occurring previous to or during labor, and in those cases where irregular and partial contractions occasion internal and sometimes continuous pain, without causing progress of the labor.

12. In a natural labor, chloroform should never be used without the consent of the woman and her family.

M. Courty advocates the use of chloroform. He thinks it indicated when the pains are very great and irregular, or where the patient demands it.

M. Leblond prefers to use the hydrate of chloral. —*Gazette Medicale*, Oct. 20, 1877.—*Med. Record*.

POISONING WITH TOBACCO.—A singular case of narcotic poisoning in a child has been the subject of an inquest during the last week. A boy, aged three or four years, was playing with other children who were blowing soap-bubbles. The father of the child gave him an old wooden pipe, which had been lying by on a shelf for more than a year. The deceased was quite well at the time, but, an hour after using this pipe, he became sick and drowsy. A medical man was called in, and he

found the child labouring under the usual symptoms of narcotic poisoning. He was in a comatose state, and the pupils were slightly dilated. He could be roused to answer questions, but showed no sign of rallying. He died on the fourth day after using the pipe.

The medical witness attributed death to the nicotine which the wooden pipe had imbibed and retained. The deceased while blowing soap-bubbles with it, had sucked in sufficient quantity of this powerful poison to cause the symptoms observed and to prove fatal.

There can be no doubt that a very small quantity of nicotine would suffice to destroy the life of a child of this age; but it is remarkable that the child should have survived so long. There was, however, no other cause for the symptoms and death; and it is well known that children of this tender age are highly susceptible to the effects of narcotic poisons.—*Brit. Med. Journal*.

MEDICAL LEGISLATION IN ILLINOIS.—The Illinois State Board of Health is now issuing licenses to the physicians of this State, according to the new law.

A. This new law gives all educated physicians the power to protect themselves and elevate the standard of the profession, which they never before had. In less than twelve months every County Clerk in Illinois will have recorded the license of all physicians practising in his county. Every new comer can be investigated, by any man choosing to ascertain if the former is registered, by inspecting the County Clerk's record. If he be registered, well and good; if not, the County Attorney, in obedience to instructions from the State Board, will prosecute the new comer, who must show that he is a graduate, or "move on." Thus the profession can keep out of Illinois all uneducated, ungraduated men.

B. After January 1st., prox., physicians, in collecting fees in courts, must show that they are law-abiding citizens, in that they have qualified by conforming to the laws of the State—in short, that they are licensed practitioners of medicine and surgery. Failing in this, they will suffer immensely in their suit and be greatly embarrassed.

C. All advertising specialists and travelling quacks can be suppressed, by licensed physicians entering complaint to the State Board against them, alleging that they are violating the "code," and the Board will at once recall licenses issued to those thus giving offence. As long as the earth stands there will be charlatans, and no law can be framed that will completely annihilate them. Quacks are such by NATURE. Doctors must always expect to be pestered by this sort of vermin. This new law places in our hands, for the first time in our State history, the possibility of dealing summarily with all forms of quackery. The "codes"