

sation. According to Wood it is a safe hypnotic, as no fatal case of poisoning has ever been reported. However, in several cases alarming symptoms have been caused by comparatively small doses.

One quarter of a grain has been taken with no worse effect than a prolonged sleep. The dose is given as from 1-150 to 1-80 of a grain.

I gave 1-100 of a grain hypodermically half an hour before beginning the ether. I have found that it acts as follows: The patient half an hour after the injection is calm and drowsy. The pulse is slow and full. The respirations are quiet and regular, the mouth dry, and, as a rule, the pupils slightly dilated, though reacting to light.

The ether is taken quietly and without struggling, and the stage of surgical anesthesia is quickly reached.

There is little or no secretion of fluid from the mouth or respiratory tract. There is no muscular rigidity and no cyanosis. The face is generally red. In five or six minutes the patient is lying as if calmly asleep. Anesthesia is then maintained with a very small expenditure of ether, and during the operation there is no vomiting or obstruction to respiration from secretion of fluid in the air passages.

The patient regains consciousness rapidly, but during the first twelve hours after the operation is quiet and has frequent periods of sleep. The vomiting which so often follows the administration of ether alone in a large proportion of cases does not occur; nausea is much lessened. The mouth is for some time dry and thirst is complained of.

As yet I have not seen any dangerous symptoms following its use. In describing ether anesthesia, writers, especially those who prefer chloroform, lay great stress on certain symptoms which arise, which constitute a danger to the patient or, at any rate, detract from the usefulness of ether as an anesthetic.

The statement is almost universally made that it takes longer to produce surgical anesthesia with ether than with chloroform, and that greater excitement is produced in the first stage. This has not been my experience, and, indeed, I do not believe it to be a fact. With the Clover inhaler and hyoscine I believe the average patient will be anesthetized more quickly and as quietly as with chloroform.

The profuse secretion of mucus in the air passages caused by ether is another matter and creates a real danger. It obstructs respiration and causes cyanosis. I wish to lay stress upon this, for it is not the ether that causes cyanosis, because ether contains enough oxygen for the aeration of the blood, but it is the