

In forceps cases I like the H.M.C. compound better than chloroform for the narcosis is more even, and when there is only partial anesthesia there is less resisting on the part of the patient. The hyoscine, being a motor depressant, would account for the difference. The slight difference is a decided advantage when enough help is not at hand.

The few hours of sleep the patient obtains after the toilet has been made frequently carries over the period of irritating after-pains.

For the accoucher it is the ideal anesthetic for he can obtain the desired effect without fear of an overdose.

The report of Gauss' 1,000 women delivered at the University of Friburg under the influence of scopolamine-morphine is full of interest.

Scopolamine-morphine has been used as an anesthetic for surgical and gynecological operations by Kroenig, Kummel, Rotter and others. But to Dr. Gauss, of Friburg, belongs the credit of discovering that by repeated injections of small doses of these two drugs, a peculiar state of half-consciousness is produced, in which the patient still perceives sensations, including pain, but retains no memory of these sensations afterwards.

In his first 300 cases it worked well, in 78 per cent. afterwards it was shown that if the time suffices before delivery, the method rarely fails to accomplish the desired result. It gives such relief from labor-pains, that the women beg for more injections.

But its greatest value, if time should justify Gauss' claims, lies in the effect on the mother, namely, in preventing nervous and mental diseases by sparing her the psychic trauma of childbirth.

The dosage is based on the memory sensation; that is, the repeated injections are given one hour or more apart, until the patient's memory is lost to objects she had been shown a few moments before. Then no more is given unless she awakens out of the narcosis. After the first dose sometimes scopolamine is given alone.

Gauss places great stress on the purity of the scopolamine. The same applies to hyoscine. In most cases four injections at intervals of one hour or more serves to sustain semi-consciousness until after the birth.

In the Friburg clinic, the ears are plugged, and the room is kept as quiet as possible.

As to the duration of labor, comparison is made with the figures of Veit and Bumm. There is very little difference shown. It is possible that labor is slightly prolonged under scopolamine-morphine.