

ly whether it meets the requirements. Does it relieve laryngeal obstruction? Waxham, with 96 collected cases, says it does. O'Dwyer, with 48 cases, says yes. Hance, with 5 cases, says yes. Jennings, with 4 cases, admits that it does. Northrup, with 12 cases, says yes. One hundred and sixty-five cases, carefully reported and well attested, say it relieves laryngeal dyspnoea promptly and effectually. Now, does it leave the patient without any of the advantages offered by tracheotomy? For the answer to this question we must look to results. Twenty-eight and one-half per cent. have thus far recovered, and in estimating the usefulness of the operation it must be remembered it is new, and while its advocates have been making these records they have at the same time been accumulating experience which will tell in future reports. Some of the accidents here mentioned are grotesque, and can never occur again. I do not mention tracheotomy records, because they are so variously estimated. Do you believe that if every case were collected the percentage of recoveries after tracheotomy would reach twenty-eight and one-half? If the number of cases is insufficient, we have not long to wait, for enterprising Chicago sends us the report of 96 cases. Intubation is in use in Kentucky, Indiana and Virginia.—*Gaillard's Med. Journal*.

CHLOROFORM VAPOR IN PAINFUL EAR CASES.—I would like to draw the attention of practitioners to the use of this vapor in ear cases, so that it may become better known and more frequently adopted, as at least a preliminary part of the treatment in cases in which intolerable pain is the chief complaint. I have very often used it with almost magical effects and very pleasing results in cases in which the pain in the ear was so great that the patient could not bear the parts to be touched even in the gentlest possible manner. In cases of furunculosis, and in diffuse inflammation of the external meatus, as well as in acute inflammation of the tympanic membrane, I have found it to relieve the pain so much that the patients considered themselves cured. In some cases the pain was kept in abeyance so long that the necessary manipulations and treatment were carried out without the least inconvenience to the patient, and in many cases there was no return of the distressing symptoms.

- Its application I have also found exceedingly useful (in fact a complete cure) in cases of otalgia, in which, on examination of the ear by means of the speculum and mirror, no apparent cause for the pain could be ascertained. Again, in cases of neuralgia, where the pain is shooting all round the ear, and seemed to originate from it, the relief was permanent. Also, in cases of earache arising from carious teeth, as well as in cases of toothache of the molars, without any pain in the ear, it has proved very beneficial.

It is a very simple matter to introduce the vapor into the ear, and the only thing to guard against is the introduction of the chloroform itself, which might irritate the part and perhaps cause unnecessary discomfort.—*Robb, Brit. Med. Jour.*

ABDOMINAL SUPPORT DURING PREGNANCY.—I always advise patients in a pregnant condition to leave off their corsets (from about the fourth month onward, should I see them at that time), and having supplied the want of a corset by a suitable bodice, to wear a supporting belt with elastic sides, so arranged as to exercise a comfortable pressure, from below, on the muscles, and fitted with tapes or straps to relax the pressure as the uterus enlarges. In every case in which I have recommended this to be done, and where my directions were followed, the patient not only expressed herself as feeling far more comfortable, but I have remarked that the subsequent labor was of much shorter duration than usual, owing, I believe, to the support afforded in time to the abdominal muscles, and which by husbanding their tone and strength, enabled them to assist the uterus, in its efforts of expulsion, in a marked degree.

When engaged to attend primiparae, I also direct the bandage to be left off at night, and the abdomen well rubbed with lard at bedtime. When this treatment is followed in primiparae, I find there is little or no trace of the "linea alba" to be discovered after the patient recovers from the lying-in, and the abdomen also resumes its natural appearance, which the patient as a rule is the first to remark.—*Dr. Duke in Provincial Med. Jour.*

A NEW "CURE FOR CANCER."—Dr. Velloso lays claim to having cured several cases of epithelioma of the face and lips with the juice of alvelos, a plant which belongs to the family of Euphorbiaceae. It acted as an irritant, and destroyed the diseased tissue, which was quickly replaced by healthy granulations. Of the three different kinds of alvelos (male, female, and wild), the second is considered the most efficacious. It is found at Pernambuco, and although the natives have employed the juice for some time, it has not come into extensive use on account of the severe pain which it causes. The best results were obtained with the juice in a concentrated solid form, and with the addition of vaseline or lanoline. This preparation should be applied with a brush to the affected part (previously washed with a solution of carbolic acid), which should then be left exposed to the air for at least an hour. It should afterward be covered with lint. This treatment should, as a rule, be repeated every two or three days, and never more than once in twenty-four hours, as the pain of the application is severe. The treatment was more speedily successful when begun before ulceration had occurred.—*Brit. Med. Jour.*