

Morphia in cases of Aneurism.—(Morphia and a tell-tale as aids to compression in aneurism. By C. F. MAUNDER, F.R.C.S., Surgeon to the London Hospital.)—In my Lettsomian Lectures of 1875, I drew attention to the value of Morphia as an aid to compression, as a substitute for chloroform and its attendant risks. I illustrated its use in the case of a gentleman who “dozed, took his meals, smoked his pipe, and submitted to continuous digital compression for twenty-three hours, with scarcely a complaint; and at the expiration of this time, expressed himself as capable of enduring treatment many hours longer.” The following is another example of the value of the drug.

In February 1877, Mr. —, who is now forty-two years of age, was advised that he was the subject of an aneurism of the popliteal artery. He was put to bed and treated for the first ten days with a bag of shot weighing eight pounds placed over the common femoral artery. During the next month a tourniquet was substituted, and worn during eighteen hours out of the twenty-four over the superficial femoral artery. His health now began to fail; treatment was discontinued; and he went to his business, the tumour being smaller, and pulsation less marked. During the last three months, the swelling and the pulsation had both increased, associated with pain and general discomfort about the knee.

March 29th. 1878, I found Mr. — with an aneurism of the size of a large orange occupying the upper half of the popliteal region, and bulging somewhat to the inner side of it. Continuous digital compression with a weight of ten pounds was advised, aided by morphia, if necessary.

March 30th. Mr. W. R. T. Hawkins and Mr. Albert E. Jones of the London Hospital commenced the compression treatment at 11.45, A.M., the common femoral being the artery selected; and they maintained complete occlusion of this vessel for the space of half an hour alternately. At 4 P.M., the patient suddenly complained of severe pain (distal occlusion?), commencing in the calf of the leg, and running up along the aneurism and femoral artery. A quarter of a grain of morphia was now hypo-