

One point here I want to emphasize, and that is I do not use aqueous sprays at all in these cases; but hydro-carbon oils thrown through the atomizer by means of compressed air.

In removing post-nasal synechiæ between the eustachian tube and the vault, I have used the cautery blade passed up behind the palate, with success. Usually, however, I have employed a narrow Gottstein's curette and the finger-nail. Of course tampons are not required in this region.

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## MORPHIA IN THE TREATMENT OF PUERPERAL CONVULSIONS.\*

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BY DAVID HOIG, M.D., OSHAWA.

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*Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,*—The use of morphia in the treatment of puerperal convulsions has been long enough before the profession for its value to be appreciated and its limitations fairly well defined. There still seems to be, however, the greatest diversity of opinion as to the propriety of its use.

It has been my bad fortune to encounter during twenty years of practice an unusually large number of cases of this terrible malady, and my attention has been consequently strongly directed to everything bearing on its relief. My first experience with the use of morphia in its treatment dates back to the beginning of my practice and almost to my first obstetrical case. My consternation may be easily imagined at being thus saddled with the responsibility of an eclamptic attack of great severity, several miles from professional assistance, and with a very limited supply of drugs. The supreme necessity of controlling the convulsions almost forced me to use morphia, but I did it with fear and trembling, for I had been taught to distrust opium and all its works in cases complicated with uremia. The results were most gratifying, and my gratitude being proportionate to my previous anxiety, I became an enthusiastic advocate of the morphia treatment, and for a long time I had no reason to doubt its entire efficacy. But, after a time, I began to meet every now and then with a case in which morphia failed to control the convulsions. One of these was an undoubted uremic case of an aggravated type with complete suppression of urine, and no return to consciousness during the intervals of convulsions. Death ensued in about twenty-four hours after the birth of the child. This was the only case I have seen where albumen was present in the urine and the labor completed, in which morphia failed to control the convulsions.

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\* Read at meeting of Ontario Medical Association.