

This certainly seems a plan worthy of the most serious consideration, and I think it should be tried when, unfortunately, an opportunity presents itself. With present means our success is *nil*; perchance with this it may be encouraging. Dr. Kidd has himself tried it with wonderful results in one human subject; and I cannot conclude this article better than by copying his account of it.

“ The patient was a poor married lady, otherwise in fair health, admitted to one of our private hospitals or ‘homes,’ who was operated on by one of the plastic operations on the female organs, so successful of late, thanks, too, in a great measure, to the calming influence of chloroform. Near the end of the operation, the author (Dr. Kidd), who watched the respiration and pulse all through its performance, was alarmed by both stopping, then going on again, but finally stopping with all the usual signs of death by chloroform: the woman, in fact, lay in a state that it might be said death had obviously set in; she was cold, pulseless, without motion or breathing, her face like stone. The utmost alarm was instantly felt. The so-called “ready method” of Marshall Hall, as also the Sylvester method of artificial respiration, were persistently had recourse to; still there was no pulse, no breathing, no animation. The lifeless or all but lifeless body, in a word, lay, as many of the animals poisoned by chloroform are seen to lie, till roused up by electricity. The author of the paper sent at once for the magneto-electric battery. Some confusion arose at first in its application, as the handles or poles were not insulated, and the author himself was receiving the shocks, till a German physician, standing by, happily caught the metallic handles with his coat-tails (non-conductors). This little incident is mentioned to show how totally unprepared for such accidents our London hospitals are. All the persons standing by, too, were solicitous that the electricity should be applied at once to the *heart* (error No. 2); but the directions of the author were not to the heart at all, but to the phrenic nerve and diaphragm. The poor patient had now been lying some quarter of an hour pulseless, cold and without breath, indeed pronounced “dead.” Off and on alternately, the moist poles were now applied about twelve times each minute, so as to imitate in some wise the stimulus of ordinary contractions of the diaphragm; and soon, to the delight of the operator and all around, a deep sighing inspiration was noticed at each break of the circle (this was a great relief), increasing in fulness till it was evident good respiration was established. No pulse, however, was yet perceptible, and cardiac action was still watched for with much eagerness. Minutes on minutes passed away as hours; the patient moaned at the excitement of the phrenic, and a pin stuck into the diaphragm (the author’s scarf-pin, as no