

case; had given it recently to a lady who was supposed to be in consumption, whose physician had advised her not to take any anæsthetic; had given it to her at three different times for the purpose of extracting teeth, without any ill effects whatever; in fact, the lady seemed to be much improved in health since the extraction of the teeth; would not say that it was the nitrous oxide that had benefitted her. From his experience he thought it was *the* anæsthetic for dental purposes; never having had any bad results from its use. Thinks it acts not by depression, but, as one might say, it lifts the patient above the sense of pain.

Dr. Fowler fully endorsed the remarks of Dr. Barrett; always made it a point to gain the entire confidence of the patient; always endeavors to allay the nervousness of the patient by turning the direction of the mind to such subjects as will be pleasing. He said he had extracted sixteen teeth at one sitting, under the influence of the gas, but, cannot always take out as many, before the patient becomes conscious. He keeps it over water, and has kept it in that way for three weeks. Patients sometimes fancy that they feel pain, but, he doubts whether it is not a sort of dream.

Dr. Coleman said he had used anæsthetics for several years, but had had the best success with nitrous oxide; always assures the patient that it is not going to give any pain, and strives to impress the mind of the patient favorably when the effect of the gas commences; he too, had extracted as many as sixteen teeth at one sitting; considers the gas as good after standing for three weeks as when made.

Dr. Barrett said he had given the gas in a case of endocarditis, without any ill effects, but has never given to any one affected by organic disease of the heart; he always refuses to give it in cases of inflammation of the lungs.

Dr. Pritchard would like to learn something of the physiological action of the gas, and whether the patient obtains any oxygen from it.

Dr. Barrett wishes to say that in his opinion, we are just feeling in the dark in this matter; that when giving nitrous oxide or any other anæsthetic he always feels that he is taking the life of his patient into his hands, and has everything ready to restore the patient if he finds he is sinking; never gives it for trivial reasons; thinks we should use the greatest caution, until we know more fully the action of the agent, or the result may be fatal.