

### Primary Ether Anesthesia.

Sudeck has modified his technique of operating under primary ether anesthesia as described by him some years ago. At that time he caused the patient to inhale as deeply and rapidly as possible the concentrated vapor from a mask on which 30-50 gm. of ether had been poured at once. Sudeck now considers this method unnecessarily heroic, and states that he has been able to obtain equally good results by the drop method. An open mask is placed in position, and the patient is allowed to draw a few breaths through it before the administration of the anesthetic is begun. At first one drop, is allowed to fall every two or three breaths, gradually the rate of the flow is increased to a drop with every breath, and, as toleration is established, rapid dropping is begun. The patient's sensibility is tested by using alternately the point and head of a pin, and causing him to specify sharp or blunt. When the answers become incorrect the time to operate has arrived. Sudeck states that when properly carried out, failure is encountered only very rarely. When the method is successful the patient is still sufficiently conscious at the beginning of the operation to obey the commands of the operator, and, if he wishes, to observe all the steps of the operation. He experiences no pain, but only tactile sensations, and immediately on the termination of the anesthesia is able to arise without any disagreeable sequelæ.—*Medical Record.*

### Dipsomania

The writer defines dipsomania as an abnormal demand of the nervous system, either constant or periodic, for the drug action of alcohol—a demand so strong that the patient takes the alcohol in spite of his earnest wish and effort to avoid it. Dipsomania partakes of the nature of both a neurosis and a psychosis, the predisposing cause being a nervous system that is peculiarly susceptible to the poisonous or intoxicating action of alcohol. Dipsomania is a curable disease and not a mere habit. The patient should be removed from home, with all of its customary surroundings, and devote himself to the business of being cured. In the majority of cases the writer administers some remedies hypodermically at stated hours. He usually prescribes alcoholic liquors during the first few days of treatment, gradually withdrawing them. Milk and raw eggs are probably the best nutriment. Apomorphine is the most prompt and effective hypnotic.—*C. T. Douglas, Medical Record.*