in which these agents are employed and it must remain always a difficult point of determination, how far the death is due to the action of the anæsthetic, and how far to the operation, or as death has occurred not unfrequently almost before the inhalation has commenced how far to mental causes which would exist independently of the anæsthetic. I am informed that during a period of 25 years experience in the Montreal General Hospital only two cases of death have been attributed to the use of chloroform. The method of adminstration being on a towel folded into a cone ; and allowing of free access of atmospheric air. I am strongly in favour of this mode of administration as against all other forms of complicated apparatus which often frighten nervous patients. That chloroform has a decided tendency to depress the heart's action is clearly admitted, especially when taken for a long operation, and hence its danger ; for comfort and convenience of administration it is superior to all anæsthetics yet introduced. It does, however, occasionally cause syncope and sometimes even death by reason of the depression of the heart's action, and consequent failure of supply of blood to the brain.

Hence it appears to be admitted generally that chloroform is more dangerous than ether, the next most useful anæsthetic, but the objections to the use of ether to a great extent counterbalance its greater immunity from fatal results. The amount of muscular activity is so great as often to materially interfere with the operator, and render the operation more dangerous, especially in cases where careful dissection is required, an example of which is given by Mr. Furneaux Jordan in the *British Medical Journal* for January 30, 1875, where he experienced great difficulty in ligating the femoral artery from muscular tremor, the result of the use of ether.

In the same Journal Dr. Thomas Keith of Edinburgh laudates ether at the expense of chloroform, on the ground that in ovariotomy cases the use of chloroform is followed by prolonged vomiting which is not the case with ether. It