

The exception is if the patient be very much enfeebled and the effusion be small or moderate, we may, with advantage delay the operation during a brief period, until his forces have been somewhat re-established.

By proceeding after this manner, all danger of fatal syncope will be obviated. Meanwhile, of course, if the effusion from small or moderate, rapidly become large or excessive, the formal and imperative indication is to operate as soon as possible. In syncopal states there is anæmia of the brain, which is often successfully treated by placing the patient flat on his back. In view of this fact, Marrotte has recommended to operate while the patient is in a half-reclining or completely recumbent posture, so that there may be less predisposition to this condition. This practice seems to me judicious.

—*Clinic Cincinnati.*

EXTERNAL TREATMENT OF PERTUSSIS.

Permit me to call the attention of the profession, through your valuable journal, to the successful treatment of whooping cough by rubefacients and revulsive applications. My attention was first attracted to this mode of treatment by an intelligent old lady. Some four years ago, while visiting a patient in the family where she was residing at the time, I incidentally spoke of a granddaughter who was suffering from an attack of whooping-cough, and as she was but two years old and quite delicate, I expressed some doubts about her recovery. The old lady remarked that she could tell me how to cure her in three days, and said she had obtained the prescription over fifty years before, from the celebrated Dr. Drake, who was at that time her family physician in Cincinnati. The source from whence she got the prescription made me anxious to know more about it. As she had preserved a copy, I will give it—

R. Olei succini rectificatim,
Tincturæ opii,
" Aquæ ammoniæ,
Olei oliivæ, *aa* ʒj. M.

Fig.—Rub along the whole track of the spine two or three times a day; to be discontinued when the parts become tender.

As soon as I returned from my visit, I prepared the liniment, according to the formula, and immediately commenced the treatment. The patient at the time had terrible paroxysms of whooping. The result was that whooping ceased entirely in less than three days. The relief was so prompt I was confident it was brought about through the use of the liniment, as I had dropped every article of medicine after commencing the local applications.

I have, since that time, used the same treatment through several epidemics of the disease, and always with success. The treatment should

not be commenced until the whooping paroxysms sets in. Just how, or through what channels the cure is effected, I am unable to say, but facts are stubborn things. I will only hint that the action of the medicine may be through, or on, the communicating branches of the pneumogastric nerve, the spinal accessory, first and second cervical, and sympathetic. I have no other object in giving this to the profession than to stimulate others to a trial, and in return beg them to give the profession the results of their observations.

H. MALLORY, M.D.

Hamilton, Ohio, July 10th, 1877.

—*Phil. Med. and Surgical Report.*

A NEW ANÆSTHETIC.

A new anæsthetic has been described by M. Rabuteau before the Academy of Science, Paris. It is hydrobromic ether, which, he says, can be administered without difficulty, and which is, moreover, eliminated almost completely by the respiratory passages. It holds an intermediate place between chloroform, bromoform and ether. Considering the frequent recurrence of chloroform accidents, any new anæsthetic which promises to yield a greater degree of immunity from danger of a fatal result is worthy of trial.—*New Remedies.*

NOTE ON THE IMMEDIATE CURE OF PILES.

The following note on the immediate cure of piles by H. A. Reeves, F.R.C.S. Edin., is found in the *London Lancet* for May, 1877.

During the latter part of last year I commenced the treatment of piles about to be described, and having now submitted eighteen cases to this new method, and sufficient time having elapsed to form a fair judgment as to the result of most of the cases, it is time to make the simple operation more public, so that others may try it, and report their results. All the patients operated on suffered from the severe form of internal piles, and four of them were bad cases—i.e., the piles were very large and ulcerated in large superficial patches, and the general condition was distressing, as there were anæmia and haggard aspect due to hæmorrhage and pain.

To this rapid method of treatment I have applied a term used by Mr. Barnard Holt, and now so well known to the profession—viz., the *immediate* cure; and I have used the word *cure* advisedly, as the first batch of patients have not had the slightest trouble since they were operated on. The last five cases are too recent to say anything as to ultimate results.

I feel that the term "immediate" is more strongly applicable to this method than that of Mr. Holt, for not only is the operation rapid, but the *entire* treatment is very short as compared with the ordinary methods of treating hæmorrhoids—i.e., by nitric acid, ligature, or clamp and cautery.

In the *immediate* treatment of urethral stricture