

## ANÆSTHESIA.

In a paper entitled "Anæsthesia In Its Relation To The General Practitioner," appearing in the *Medical Record* for July 9, W. H. Kearney advocates trained anæsthetists whenever it is possible to employ them. But, in the meantime, every general practitioner should acquaint himself with the method of administration and action of one or two anæsthetics, and be prepared to give them intelligently. Every case should be a study in itself. Safety in anæsthesia cannot be obtained without knowledge and experience, and ability to detect untoward symptoms in the beginning, and remedy them before harm has come to the patient. Nitrous oxide with oxygen is safest, but impossible to the general practitioner, on account of the complicated apparatus neces-

sary for its administration. Ether is from five to ten times safer than chloroform. Warning is given by the symptoms early in the administration when an overdose has been given. In chloroform the collapse is sudden and without warning, heart and respiration failing at once. Chloroform both produces narcosis and causes destruction of nervous and other tissues. Ether is less harmful to the cells of liver and kidneys, and does not so much interfere with elimination. Pneumonia following ether inhalation is generally due to dirty inhalers, or septic discharges from the nose, or vomited material getting into the wind-pipe. Chloroform is an exceedingly dangerous drug and absolutely contraindicated in most cases. Respiration may fail from obstruction or from shock.

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