

*Chloroform in Delirium Tremens.* By W. M. CHAMBERLAIN, M.D.—The author of this paper, published in the April number of the *American Journal of Medical Sciences*, was attached to the medical staff of Blackwell's Island during the year 1853; during which time no less than 960 persons, in various stages of debauch, came under his observation, and more than 200 of these had fully developed delirium tremens.

Dr. Chamberlain states, that in those cases where all the usual means were found unavailing, the administration of *chloroform* was often productive of the happiest effects. He, however, declares that this potent agent was never resorted to but in cases of extreme severity. Several cases are related, showing the power of chloroform in quieting the cerebral excitement, and procuring sleep, which are very striking.

The first case, an Irish butcher, with furious delirium, resisted for thirty hours the usual remedies. He was at last placed under the influence of chloroform, and slept *nine hours*.

The second case was still more aggravated. The subject, an old toper, had been maniacal and under treatment for thirty-six hours. Chloroform at first failed to affect him satisfactorily, but eventually, after producing spasm and laryngismus, the result was to procure sleep, and the patient rapidly recovered.

Case third came very near being included in the rapidly increasing list of "*deaths from chloroform*." The patient, while breathing this agent suddenly ceased to breathe, but was roused under the influence of artificial respiration. Gradually he breathed easily, and sunk into a quiet sleep. His recovery was rapid.

In another instance, finding it impossible to produce the full anæsthetic influence, the sufferer was carried to the *verge of asphyxia*. Artificial respiration was resorted to, and a recovery was the result.

This certainly may be considered "bold practice," and while it may not be inadmissible in desperate cases, should be cautiously attempted under usual circumstances. After witnessing the wonderful recoveries from apparently hopeless mania, we should rather not kill our patient with chloroform, with the hope of producing a favorable result.

In the same journal from which we have prepared this brief abstract of Dr. Chamberlain's paper, we also notice five cases of delirium tremens treated by the inhalation of chloroform, reported by Dr. Garrett of North Carolina. These cases occurred in the Bellevue hospital, New York. Four of the number were promptly relieved. The fifth case, however, died—and it is stated that he never could be put completely under the influence of the chloroform.

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*Three Cases of Tracheotomy in Croup.* By L. LAMIE.—In December 1853, numerous cases of croup occurred at Utrecht; in three instances tracheotomy was adopted as a last resource, and was performed by Herr Lamie. The result was in all unfavorable; the first child, aged 2½ years, died quite unexpectedly, 58 hours after the operation, which at first promised the most favorable result: the cause of death was not revealed by the post-mortem examination; the lungs were every where free from inflammation. The second child was fifteen months old; the operation was in this instance, had recourse to at a very late period, so