The chief drawback of ether is, that it cannot be readily administered by timid persons. Anybody can pour a little chloroform on to a handkerchief, and hold it over a face. Not everybody can resolutely pour out a large quantity of ether, resolutely and closely bind a towel round the mouth and nose, and resolutely disregard the most violent muscular contortions. But these are difficulties which very attainable knowledge and experience will surmount.

In a few operations where the skin needs to be freely incised, and especially where such incisions precede delicate and anxious manipulations, the deeper influence of chloroform may be desirable. Quite recently, the practice of beginning with a little chloroform, and then giving ether, answered extremely well in the hands of my colleague Dr. Sawyer in the case of an old man, from whose tarsus I removed a carious patch by means of a large trephine, after a free crucial incision in an "Esmarchised" limb.

In this note, it is far from my intention to discuss the general question of anæsthesia ; but a few words, and a few only, on chloroform. I entirely coincide in the opinion that every kind of "apparatus"—everything containing "valves"—should be scrupulously avoided. Every effort should be made to prevent, what so readily occurs, a deeper anæsthesia than the particular operation, or stage of operation requires. Timid Chloroformisation is, especially in the early stages, equally mischievous. Timidity in the administration of chloroform means much more chloroform, longer time, and greater danger. Again : conjunctival insensibility is too rough a test ; it may come too soon. Much worse, it may come too late. In children, the conjunctiva is often insensible in a few moments, especially if there be anything on the stomach. As regards food in the stomach, in hospital practice it is common for mothers, when they are instructed to bring children without breakfast (or other meal) to give them some outrageous compound—beer and fruit. apples and pears, being the commonest—under the impression that these are not a