

in the ordinary way with a pocket-handkerchief. When about half an ounce had been used, and just as Dr. Wallace was about to operate, the patient presented unfavorable symptoms. All efforts at restoration proved fruitless, and the patient immediately sank.

The widow and children of the deceased have since entered an action against Dr. Leslie for \$5,000 damages. The trial came off during the recent Assizes in Hamilton. A large number of medical witnesses gave evidence as to the care and skilfulness exercised by Dr. Leslie in the case. The only medical evidence contra was given by a Dr. Roach, of Toronto, who is probably about as well and as favorably known in Hamilton as in this city. At the conclusion of the trial the following questions were given, and answered by the jury:—

1. Was Dr. Leslie retained by Edward Routh to treat him for the disease from which he was then suffering; and did the defendant visit Edward Routh on May 25th to treat him for such disease? or did he visit Edward Routh merely for the purpose of administering chloroform while Dr. Wallace performed the operation at the latter's invitation? A. He visited him for the purpose of administering chloroform only.

2. Did Dr. Leslie make a proper examination of Routh, and if not, in what particular in your judgment was the examination defective? A. He did make a proper examination.

3. Was the administration of chloroform by Dr. Leslie by the medium of a handkerchief proper? A. It was.

4. What quantity of chloroform was administered during the operation? A. About one-half an ounce. And do you consider such a quantity as being excessive during the time it was administered? A. No, if properly administered.

5. Was Dr. Leslie negligent or unskilful in the administration of the chloroform to Edward Routh? and if so can you say in what manner he exhibited negligence or unskilfulness? A. We cannot agree.

The question of damages, if any be given, we propose to assess as follows: Mrs. Routh to receive \$400; the eldest daughter to receive \$100; the second daughter to receive \$200; the youngest daughter to receive \$300.

It will thus be seen that Dr. Leslie will, in all probability, be submitted to the further annoyance in the costs.

There are many points suggested by such a trial as this.

1. How very difficult it is for laymen even of the highest intelligence to answer correctly such questions as were given by the learned Judge. It is not to be expected that of their own general knowledge they could give accurate replies. How much care then should be exercised by medical witnesses to make matters plain and clear, so that the facts and opinions can be properly grasped by the jury.

2. If this case should be finally decided against Dr. Leslie, any medical practitioner, no matter what the care and skill exercised, may still be liable to a suit for damages if an accident should occur.

We know, as the result of experience, that death from chloroform will sometimes occur no matter how much care and skill are shown in its administration, and that in many of these cases, physicians have failed even on *post mortem* examination, to find any lesion to account for the fatal action of the chloroform. Fortunately such instances are few, but Dr. Leslie appears to have fallen in with one of them.

IRON FOR ANÆMIA.

There is probably no more common error in ordinary routine practice than that connected with the indiscriminate administration of iron in all cases of anæmia. The physician who invariably gives a mixture containing iron to anæmic patients does little or no good in half the cases, and does harm to a large number. Unless the stomach and intestines are in a condition to assimilate the iron when administered, there is simply added to the intestinal tract something which can have no effect excepting to act as an irritant.

Sir Andrew Clark recently read a paper before the Medical Society of London on "Fæcal Anæmia and Chlorosis," from which we give an extract in our last issue, referring particularly to that form of anæmia occurring in girls from 14 to 24 years of age. He considered that in a large number of cases it was due to the accumu-