

Many of its enthusiastic early supporters have abandoned its use, and its popularity seems to be progressively waning among the better class of physicians who have used it enough to realize its limitations.

Mass found 11 deaths as a result of the use of scopolamine in 1449 cases—a rate of one in 134.

DeMaurans collected reports of 22 scopolamine deaths; Wood reported statistics of 9 deaths due solely to the scopolamine; Deybert and Dupont reported 7 scopolamine deaths, and collected reports of 22 others from literature. Hatcher has given the number of fatalities from scopolamine in the United States as 30 up to 1910.

With any anesthetic which has been but comparatively few years before the profession, it is extremely difficult to judge as to the position it may ultimately occupy provided it seems to fulfil the need of the physician. However, there seems to be but little doubt as to the verdict in the case of this agent in obstetrics. However well it might serve to mask the pain, or induce forgetfulness of it, the mortality statistics already in evidence cannot fail to check the enthusiasm of any rational man. Any agent which can not escape a mortality rate such as those published must fall under the condemnation of the profession, in the end, for no man can defend himself in its use in the event of untoward results. While it is hardly to be hoped that an anesthetic which is absolutely safe will be produced, we can do no more than employ those which statistics have shown to be the least liable to induce dangerous symptoms or even death. Nor is it likely that we will ever be able to state the degree of danger present in any individual case; but already we can determine approximately the relative danger attending the use of the better known agents, and the relative danger of one death in each 134 administrations is too high to longer justify the use of this agent.

**HEROIN.**—Only two years ago, Kapp, of California, brought this drug to the attention of the profession by a report of 100 cases of delivery under its influence.

Mere analgesia is induced, and the patient sleeps lightly between expulsive efforts, being easily aroused at any time. If awakened, there is no mental dullness or confusion of ideas, and the patient is perfectly rational. The claim is boldly made that heroin induces a painless labor. It can be used by any physician with perfect safety in the home of the patient. The second stage of labor is said to be shortened because in the absence of pain the uterine contractions are advantageously augmented by willing expulsive efforts. The condition of the new mother is better by reason of the few hours sleep following the completion of labor, and so the customary exhaustion is abated. It is said to have