

### Another Death under an Anæsthetic.

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By L. D. S.

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On Saturday afternoon, the 26th of last April, a young man named Doreat Perrin, aged about twenty-four, called upon Dr. Gendreau, dentist, of Montreal, to have a tooth extracted, and begged the dentist to give him the Vegetable Vapor, which Dr. Gendreau had, like many other practitioners, administered for some time to the exclusion of nitrous oxide gas. So much dissatisfaction had been generally expressed relative not only to the frequent absence of nitrous oxide in cylinders supplied, but as to its deleterious quality, that the introduction into Montreal of a branch of the manufactory of Vegetable Vapor led many to test, and at last to welcome it as a decided improvement upon any other anæsthetic in use. Dr. Gendreau had been particularly careful not only to provide himself with the very best apparatus, but frequently to refuse any anæsthetic in constitutional conditions which seemed at all objectionable. When Mr. Perrin asked for an anæsthetic Dr. Gendreau made sure that the patient was not under the influence of liquor; that several hours (five) had elapsed since his last meal, and that the patient to all appearances, as well as by critical examination and inquiry was in good health. The vapor was administered in precisely the same way as nitrous oxide, the usual gag having been first inserted between the teeth. The hour was 11.30 a.m. The patient was somewhat nervous, but the anæsthetic was not forced upon him; respiration was perfectly natural; and deep sleep produced. The offending tooth was extracted, and while the assistant was waiting for the recovery of the patient, the operator turned for a moment to place his forcep on his stand, when he heard the patient gasp, and exhibit signs of distress. Instantly they lifted him from the chair, placed him on his back on the floor, and after using aqua ammonia, performed artificial respiration, at the same time sending for a physician. In less than five minutes the patient was dead.

An inquest was held, when coroner's jury returned the following verdict: "The jury are unanimously of the opinion that the deceased died from syncope caused by the administration of gas,