

caused 30, 40, 50 drops of amylene poured upon a compress folded several times, to be inhaled. These inhalations constantly and rapidly determined a state of insensibility to the pain, the uterine contractions lost nothing in force or frequency. The return of sensibility was almost instantaneous, from the moment that the pain ceased, and the compress was removed. At the time of the birth of the infant the insensibility was as complete as if chloroform had been used. The placenta was detached and expelled with rapidity, and the uterus contracted well afterwards; the infant was healthy and vigorous.

Mr. Tyler Smith, as well as the other surgeons already mentioned, accord to amylene, compared with chloroform, the advantage of a prompt action *probably* without danger, and what is not less important, the rapid disappearance of the insensibility as soon as the inhalations are suspended. The *only* disadvantages are, the disagreeable odour of this substance, and the necessity of employing a great quantity in order to produce sufficient anæsthetic effects.

Up to the close of January, sixty-nine operations had been performed in England under the action of amylene.

In Paris amylene was first employed in the early part of February, at Hospital St. Antoine, in the wards under the charge of M. Aran, upon patients who had come to have some teeth extracted. Three young women were subjected to the vapors of amylene. The duration of the inhalation was twenty minutes for each of them without producing complete insensibility. The instrument M. Debout invented for chloroform was used, which did not permit the vapor of amylene to pass off in sufficient quantity in a given time. This and the limited quantity of amylene used was supposed to be the cause of the failure.

At a second sitting, the apparatus of M. Charriere for chloroform was used, and a larger quantity of amylene was secured. According to Mr. Snow, the patient should respire twenty grains of amylene a minute, which produces insensibility in three minutes, and sometimes less, which was the result in this case. From 3 i to 3 iss of amylene was poured into Charriere's apparatus, and in less than three minutes the patient, a young female with a large decayed molar tooth, was fully asleep. Not being ready for the extraction of the tooth, the patient was allowed to awake, which she did in less than a minute,—her face was gay and laughing, she thought she had just returned from a walk. Everything prepared, about a drachm of the amylene was again poured into the apparatus, and the anæsthesia was again as prompt as before, the third minute had hardly elapsed when the mouth of the patient was opened without resistance and the tooth extracted without the patient manifesting the least sign of pain.