

which is not always sufficiently recognized, namely, prolonged anæsthesia. On the one hand we know that shock is a depression of the vital functions, while on the other we have the original investigations of Dr. Gordon Campbell, a distinguished member of this Society, which prove that the vital functions begin to fail from the first moment that anæsthesia begins. By the careful analysis of urine drawn at the end of each hour he has shown that the quantity of urea diminishes, which is just exactly what we might expect ; for life is merely combustion, and like every other fire goes out when its supply of oxygen is shut off or is replaced by carbonic dioxide. Can any one say that this does not occur with the Clover inhaler and, indeed, to some extent with any inhaler? How can it be otherwise when the patient receives but two breaths of air in every three, and not good air at that ; not fresh country air or even deteriorated city air ; not even the bad air of the hospital, but the worst air of all, that of a crowded operating-room ; two inspirations of air and of ether, and this during several hours, sometimes. Is it any wonder that the vital fire burns low and that urea decreases? This, I presume, is inevitable, unless some anæsthetist genius should devise a plan to provide the patient with a life-sustaining anæsthetic mixture of oxygen and ether. From that moment my objection to the Clover inhaler would cease, for our investigating member will then find, when he analyses the urine, that the uric acid has disappeared and that the urea has increased. Until that time comes it is our duty to cut down the duration of the anæsthesia by every means in our power, saving here a minute and there a minute wherever it can be done without neglecting the minutest details of asepsis and hæmastasis.

When I heard of the low death-rate of Joseph Price and Howard Kelly I lost no time in placing myself under their instruction, and I soon perceived that rapidity of operating played no small part in their success. In the case of the latter, who was surrounded by skilled assistants, every operation being a continuous performance, there being at no time any consecutive five seconds without something being done ; and it is evident that ten or twelve hands can do the same work in less time than only two, be they ever so skillful. I have tried to imitate him at the Samaritan Hospital, and for