

# Progress of Medicine.

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## THERAPEUTICS

IN CHARGE OF

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### VALUE OF CHLORAL.

It is unfortunate this drug has been so distinctly labelled "hypnotic and sedative," as this action has thrown into the shade the marked power possessed of relaxing spasmodically contracted unstriated muscles and dilating peripheral vessels. These qualities suggest the employment of chloral hydrate in several conditions where hitherto it has been little thought of. Associated with iodide of potassium it is of service in bronchial asthma ; and Doctor J. Pal has used it in the form of enemata (fifteen to twenty grains in each) for checking hæmoptysis ; here it is assumed to act by the revulsion which it produces in dilating the cutaneous vessels. On the same principle, it is employed by Doctor Cherchevsky, in small doses daily, to counteract the coldness of the feet and hands which is so disagreeable a symptom in certain cases of anæmia, neurasthenia, etc. ; he also employs its vaso-dilator function in the treatment of aortic aneurism, where even a dose of two or three grains combined with iodide of potassium assists the action of the latter and keeps up a certain degree of peripheral vascular relaxation.—*The Practitioner* (London).

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### BAD EFFECTS OF THE TOO FREQUENT STERILIZATION OF THE MURPHY BUTTON.

Dr. Frank Jacob, in *The North American Practitioner*, having recently had the opportunity of using Dr. Murphy's button in an end-to-end anastomosis, and having also had the opportunity of viewing the button *in situ post mortem*, he noticed that the two bowls of the button were not in close enough apposition. The cause of this was due to the weakening of the