

**THE ADMINISTRATION OF CHLOROFORM.**  
—M. Dastre lately made a communication to the Societe de Biologie relative to the dangers of anæsthesia by the use of chloroform, and recalled that he had always prevented these dangers in dogs by preceding the administration of the chloroform with a subcutaneous injection of atropine associated with morphia. He remarked that death which occurs during anæsthesia is often due to an irritation of the pneumogastric ganglia, which produces arrest of the heart and death by syncope. The atropomorphinic injection has the effect of preventing the production of this excitation.

**INCOMPATIBILITY OF CHLORATE OF POTASSIUM AND IODIDE OF IRON.**—According to the *Boll. Farm. (Arch. de phar., July 5, 1888)*, the death of a child was caused by the iodine resulting from the decomposition of these salts. The iron precipitates in the form of a sesquioxide, and the iodine is completely eliminated in accordance with the following formula:  $2\text{FeI}_2 \div \text{KClO}_3 = \text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3 \div \text{KCl} \div 4\text{I}$ .

**INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE.**—A congress with this title is announced to meet in New York on June 4th next. It is to be held under the auspices of the Medico-Legal Society, but the following five papers are announced from other countries than the States—viz: Dr. C. Spadaro (Puglia, Italy), "Nouveau Procède pour la Recherche des Cristaux de l'Emine du Sang Humain"; Dr. Norman Kerr (London), on "Criminal Responsibility in Narcomania"; Mr. Connolly Norman (Ireland), on "Feigned Insanity"; Mr. A. Wood Renton (London), on "Medical Expectism in the Old World."

**PINZONI (OF BOLOGNA) ON ERGOT IN CHILDREN.**—The drug was administered, generally in the form of about two grammes of the powder daily, to ninety-one lying in patients. Seventy-nine similar cases were treated with ergot. After comparing the series, the author came to the following conclusions: Ergot has little or no influence on the temperature; at the most a slight rise is occasionally observed. It hastens the pulse a little, yet has no marked influence on the physiolog-

ical slackening of the pulse observed during the first days after delivery. The involution of the uterus, according to the author's researches, is either totally uninfluenced by ergot or slightly retarded. The escape of the lochia remains normal when the drug is given; but clots are more readily expelled. The lochia are seldom fœtid when ergot is taken. Ergot delays the after-pains in primiparæ and lessens them when they have already commenced. The secretion of milk is retarded and lessened by ergot, and sometimes completely suppressed. Ergot seems, according to Dr. Pinzoni to be a prophylactic against puerperal fever, an indirect antiseptic agent. When infection had taken place, ergot appeared, on the other hand, to hasten the entrance of the virus into the circulation—*Br. Med. Jour., Aug. 10, 1889.*

**LOCAL ANÆSTHESIA WITH SELTZER WATER.**—Dr. Voituriez, (*J. de sci. med. de Lille*) recommends the use of siphons of seltzer water for this purpose, the jet being held at about ten centimeters from the region to be anæsthetized. He uses at first two or three bottles of the seltzer, which gives anæsthesia for four or five minutes, when a small additional quantity will suffice to prolong the effect.

**THE LANCET, LONDON, AND THE HYDERABAD CHLOROFORM COMMISSION.**—We have just received from Dr. Lauder Brunton the following telegram, which we print *verbatim*: "Four hundred and ninety dogs, horses, monkeys, goats, cats and rabbits used. One hundred and twenty with manometer. All records photographed. Numerous observations on every individual animal. Results most instructive. Danger from chloroform is asphyxia or overdose; none whatever heart direct." These results apparently indicate such a complete reversal of the view held by Dr. Lauder Brunton at the time he left England—that one of the dangers resulting from chloroform is death by stoppage of the heart—that the details of the experiments made by Dr. Brunton, and the reasons for the conclusions he has evidently arrived at, will be awaited with the greatest interest by the profession.