

other surgeons were ignored by Mr. Tait as unnecessary and a waste of time. With no rectal bag placed, no fluid in the bladder to distend it and push up the peritoneum, and with no sound even in the bladder as a guide, he cut rapidly down through the thick abdominal wall in direction of the bladder to the muscle, on reaching which he divided the tendon transversely, closely hugging the pubic arch, and with finger in the wound felt for and found the viscus.

Without waiting to sponge away blood, he caught up its wall with a couple of pairs of long forceps and opened it between the forceps with the point of a scalpel, in the same way as he would open the peritoneum in abdominal section. Then introducing his finger he explored, passed in a pair of placental forceps, caught and dragged out a stone measuring two inches by an inch and a-half. Then introducing an abdominal glass drainage tube into the organ, he sutured the bladder wound above and below the tube, and finally closed the external wound around the tube, the whole operation not lasting more than ten minutes.

London, Ont.

H. MEEK, M.D.

#### DR. COULTER'S COMBINED VAPORIZER AND INHALER.

We desire to express our very satisfactory experience in the use of the above Inhaler. The points which we consider especially worthy of notice in this instrument are, firstly, its extreme simplicity. One draw back often experienced in the use of inhalers when left in sick rooms is their liability to get out of order. This is impossible with so simple an apparatus as this one; a vessel of water, a spirit lamp and a sponge constitute the main parts of the apparatus. Secondly, as a spray producer it cannot be too highly valued, and to those who have never employed it, it might at first seem incredible that such an immense diffusion could be produced from so small a quantity of disinfectant or volatile oil used with one of the smallest instruments. Only a few minutes, are required to permeate an entire house. As a means of disseminating a disinfectant, it would be difficult indeed to surpass it; also as a means of introducing moist air into a chamber, so often required in the bronchial affections of children. It is an admirable contrivance, distributing the moisture evenly and rapidly. For disinfecting

the room and clothing it is equalled only by the super-heated steam chamber, and where such cannot be obtained, the large inhaler of Dr. Coulter's can be substituted with advantage. It can be used in any room large or small, no preparations being requisite; but the least valuable use to which the vaporizer can be put is the perfuming of rooms. We know of an instance where half a drachm of essence of lilac was sufficient to perfume a large house with the sweet smelling aroma by the aid of the vaporizer. Altogether we commend it as one of the best vaporizers for sterilizing rooms and producing hot or cold vapors as required.

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**PAINLESS CIRCUMCISION.**—Dr. G. W. Overall, in the *Med. Record*, gives the following as his method of circumcision. Apply a rubber band around the penis half an inch back of the corona, in order to limit the effects of the cocaine. Place a pillow on patient's chest to prevent his seeing the operation; then, with a small blunt-pointed syringe, inject a few drops of a freshly prepared 30 per cent. solution of cocaine into the preputial orifice. Hold the end of the prepuce with the left hand, to prevent escape of the fluid, and with the right hand force the latter to come in contact with the entire mucous membrane. Hold the prepuce in this manner for five or six minutes, when the membrane will be anesthetized. Now inject the necessary amount of the solution into the tissues of the foreskin, taking care that the needle is passed through the mucous layer instead of through the skin, pain being felt if the latter procedure be adopted. The operation can be carried out in this way without the slightest sensation of pain being felt. Absorbable sutures should be used.

**HYDROCHLORATE OF AMMONIUM BY INHALATION IN MEMBRANOUS CROUP.**—In the *Medical Record (Therap. Gaz.)* Dr. Dwight L. Hubbard calls attention to the use of hydrochlorate of ammonium in laryngismus stridulus and laryngo-tracheal diphtheria. Dr. Hubbard believes that this ammonium salt is of value, in the first place, as a heart stimulant, producing better oxidation of the blood, by bringing it in more frequent contact with the inspired air; second, in relieving the spasm and œdema of the glottis; and, third, in softening the false membrane. His method of employing this remedy is to place the patient in a