

or to require larger doses than the temperate. Administering a stimulant with chloral seems to weaken its effect. The worst time for exhibiting it is generally the morning, the best about half an hour before bedtime. Lastly.—It is very important it should be pure. The chief impurities are alcohol and aldehyd. Instead of being an hydrate it may be an aleholate, alcohol taking the place of water with the base. It is then weaker, as it contains but 76·3 per cent. of real chloral instead of 90 per cent. To detect alcohol I would suggest the same tests as those mentioned yesterday, when lecturing upon chloroform. Aldehyd is less common, as an addition, than spirit. It arises from acetic acid present in the material of which chloral is made.

Thirdly.—Chloral is QUICKER than many older sleep producers. Its celerity in medicinal doses is often equal to that of other narcotics in fatal doses. Sleep begins in from ten to twenty minutes, and lasts from half an hour to five hours or more. I have seen it act, however, more quickly than this. A common expression with patients is, they fell asleep soon after, or just after, taking the medicine. The usual dose advised is ℥ij. I think it unnecessarily large as a rule. If good, and the conditions favorable, ℥j or 3 ss, will suffice. In one case where I gave it, ℥ss was enough. It was that of C. W., æt. 19 years, who had been admitted after her first confinement, for sub-acute rheumatism. The dose was repeated thrice daily, and each time sent her asleep before many minutes were over. The largest amount I have prescribed has been 120 grains, in divided doses, during 24 hours. J. B., while in hospital with necrosis of the sternum, caught typhoid fever, which was ushered in by profuse diarrhoea. From night time to the visit hour, 10 a.m., he had about twenty stools. Chloral though given to the extent of 3 ij, as stated, was well borne, moderated the purging, and was followed by no worse effect than great drowsiness. Eighty grains is the largest single dose I have read of. Dr. Madden directed it to be given in a case of hysterical mania, where there was violent excitement, coming on suddenly. It caused sleep for several hours, from which the patient awoke more composed. There were no bad results. Larger daily doses have been given in tetanus, perhaps, than in any other disease,—chloral falling in with other remedies equally tolerated on as huge a scale. From 3 iss—iij have been taken in divided quantities in the day, without exciting any tonic symptom.

The CHARACTERS OF THE SLEEP from chloral are these: it is like natural sleep, but more deep; it is sound, not broken by starts or dreams, the patient is easily awoke, and generally, if not much disturbed, soon drops off again, he may be wakened to take nourishment, &c., in the