

of the best anesthetists, and I can best secure this by the tablet and chloroform combined. With few exceptions, two full-strength tablets were used; one immediately, and the other, one hour preceding operation, and about one-half ounce chloroform used in addition, for the work of an hour or more.

"The tablets, I believe, render the chloroform more safe, owing to the stimulation of both morphine and castin. In a few cases I tried three full-strength tablets, and all these patients were operated on without chloroform, but in all, there was some cyanosis which perturbed me."

Dr. H. O. Walker, of Detroit, states that he has used the hyoscine-morphine-cactin compound in ninety-two cases to March, 1907. He says: "I have used them in extreme cases of age. While I had two deaths, they were not in my estimation due to the anesthetic.

"The boy of ten, on whom it was used received a severe injury in a railroad accident, necessitating the removal of one leg, above the knee, while the other was denuded of fully one-fourth of its integument. On the seventh day he developed tetanic spasms. One tablet was given twice daily for several days, when it was dropped to one daily. He made a good recovery.

"The gentleman, aged 82, physician, Senator of Ontario, was given one tablet hypodermically two hours before the operation on Saturday, January 19. About 60 drops of chloroform were used. He had chronic intestinal obstruction, due to malignant growth in the cecum. I short circuited with McGraw ligature, the ascending colon with the ileum. The operation was done at 8 o'clock in the morning, and in the afternoon he asked why they had not taken him into the operating-room.

"My experience has been very satisfactory with its use. For instance, one case in which I had a double amputation of the thigh three tablets were given and no chloroform used. The patient woke up late in the afternoon, and asked why he had not been operated upon—a usual question in such cases."

In some quarters it is claimed that hyoscine is identical with scopolamine, which has a number of fatalities charged against it.

Here is the opinion of Prof. Thrush, of Philadelphia, bearing on the similarity. He says: "The dominant action of hyoscine is on the cerebral cortex. It is also a centric depressant of respiration and depresses the whole motor cord. Its influence on the circulation is only slight. No fatal case of poisoning by hyoscine alone is on record, according to the Elder Wood.

"Hyoscine and scopolamine, while of the same chemical composition, differ in physiological results, for the following reasons. In the first place hyoscine, scopolamine and cocaine are all the