

not weaken the power of expiration, but lessens the violence of the cough. It not only diminishes the irritability of the peripheral nerves, but has a specific action on respiration. The respirations become fuller and deeper, while the frequency is diminished. The soluble hydrochloride of heroin is the best salt. For the cough of cardiac patients it may be given in pills with powdered digitalis. Codeine is less satisfactory. If the cough is painful dionine acts excellently. This also is a derivative of morphine, but has retained the analgesic action rather than the specific action on cough and respiration peculiar to heroin. For all forms of spasmodic cough, and especially for whooping-cough, belladonna is probably the most useful drug. It stimulates the respiratory centre, paralyzes unstriated muscle, and anesthetises the peripheral nerve-endings.—*British Medical Journal*.

Local Anesthesia.

Many surgeons make use of local anesthesia extensively, indeed, it no doubt would be more proper to say that quite all advanced operators use local anesthesia more or less, and that there is a constantly increasing number who are giving the method a wider and wider application. There is a limit, however, to the usefulness of local anesthesia; in other words, there is a border-line upon one side of which local anesthetic means can be satisfactorily applied, but beyond which general anesthesia must be depended upon.

Local anesthesia may be selected for almost all minor operations in or on parts of the body that can be readily reached, and where local anesthetic means can be thoroughly applied. The dangers of the subcutaneous injection of a 1 per cent. solution of cocaine seems to be very slight—certainly slight when compared with the dangers of general anesthesia—although a degree of care should always be exercised. The solution and syringe should, of course, be aseptic; the injections should be made into the loose subcutaneous tissue slowly; and, where necessary, the integument over the area to be anesthetized may be rendered insensible to the needle punctures by using ethyl chloride.

Small tumors can then be painlessly removed, fingers and toes amputated, aspirations done, and minor plastic operations performed.—*The Clinical Review*.

Formaldehyde.

The usual strength (ten to fifteen drops of a 40 per cent. solution to a pint of water) employed in a surgical wash should not be used about the eyes. The conjunctiva is too sensitive for a solution of such potency.—*The Clinical Review*.