

physiologically, is in the same condition as one under the influence, to the same degree, of alcohol, or the different preparations of opium. The process in effect is the same in each. We have first stimulation, intoxication, stupor or sensory paralysis, and unconsciousness, with death as a final result, if pushed too far. These effects, to the point of unconsciousness, through inhalation and exhalation, are produced and eliminated much more rapidly than of those by alimentation, and come about by first affecting the brain and periphery of the nerves simultaneously, through the stages of stimulation and intoxication and unconsciousness without touching the medulla, so that the force of life is unimpaired. This is anæsthesia.

Asphyxia will produce unconsciousness and death, but not stimulation or intoxication. It simply produces its effects by depressing the vital force, through depriving the blood corpuscles of their life-giving principle. Nitrous oxide possesses as true anæsthetic properties as ether or chloroform; but it also carries with it this deprivation of the life-giving principle, but not to the degree of producing unconsciousness by itself, or death, except in very rare instances. The anæsthesia is produced purely by the nitrous oxide, and the period of deprivation is so short that the effect is infinitesimal. If you give oxygen in combination with it, or, as I prefer and practise, admit a portion of atmospheric air during the inhalation, the effect of asphyxia will be almost imperceptible.

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10. Q.—Is nitrous oxide gas injurious to pregnant females?

I have never seen an instance of injury to pregnant women, after giving the gas to hundreds, in all stages of gestation.

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12. Q.—What is pus? and what difference between healthy and unhealthy pus?

Pus is the material which forms as the result of suppurative inflammation, due to the action of pyogenic cocci upon the tissues. The organisms most frequently found in pus are the staphylococcus, pyogenes, aureus and albus. Pus is a yellowish-white fluid, of the consistency of cream, of an alkaline reaction and nearly odorless. It has a specific gravity of 1030. On standing it separates into a clear fluid (*liquor puris*) and a sediment consisting of pus corpuscles, pyogenic cocci and fragments of broken-down tissue. The thick, creamy, odorless pus which flows from an acute abscess has been termed *healthy* pus. Pus may undergo decomposition and swarm with micro-organisms of putrefaction. This *unhealthy* form of pus has an acid reaction, and is very acrid.

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