

of laughing-gas. Blood saturated with laughing-gas shows no sign of change; the spectrum appearances are the same; the blood corpuscles are unaltered; and, according to Hermann, the oxygen is not driven out. In the blood, and probably in the body, laughing-gas suffers itself no change. It does not give up its oxygen for purposes of oxidation, as Sir Humphrey Davy thought. It gives rise, therefore, to no free nitrogen, but goes out of the body as it comes into the body, pure and simple laughing-gas. Hence it is itself of no respiratory use; and, when mixed with a quantity of oxygen sufficient for the needs of the economy, has no more direct effect on respiration than has nitrogen or hydrogen. From these facts, we may gather that the mode of action of laughing-gas is that of a body having distinct effects on certain parts of the system, and does not depend, like that of some other agents, on any direct interference with the function of respiration. Readily absorbed by blood, and yet with its limit of absorption soon reached; passing away from the blood into a pure atmosphere as quickly as it passed into the blood from the receiver in which it was previously confined; suffering no change itself, and causing no obvious gross chemical changes in the fluids or tissues of the body, it certainly seems peculiarly fitted as an agent for producing temporary conditions of the economy. On the muscles and hearts of frogs it has no more effect than nitrogen or hydrogen.—*British Medical Journal*.

**TREATMENT OF DENTAL PULPS.**—Dr. W. H. Atkinson, at a meeting of the Brooklyn Dental Association, gave the following method of treatment:

“When a pulp is exposed and aches, I remove all extraneous matter from the part; if this does not arrest the pain I dry out the cavity by applying to it pieces of bibulous paper until it is perfectly dry.

I then apply pure creosote and hold a dry napkin around the tooth for a minute, and if the pain continues I remove the napkin and syringe the cavity with tepid water, washing out all the creosote, and then apply a fresh napkin and proceed as before; then apply the best chloroform upon a pledget of cotton.

If this does not succeed repeat it again, and apply the tincture of acornite. In most cases it will not be necessary to repeat this process. I next proceed to prepare the cavity for the filling. I apply the napkin or sheet rubber to keep dry, and then, delicately, fragments of bibulous paper until all moisture is removed, when I place a drop of creosote on the exposed part, and then put a soft mass of osteo-plastic over the creosote.

I wait for the osteo-plastic to firmly set, then remove the excess and fill boldly.”