

CASE II.—The second case occurred in the practice of my colleague Mr. Prichard. Chloroform was given to an elderly man on the table in the theatre. After a short inhalation from the first drachm, a few convulsive respirations were followed by the sudden stoppage of the heart's action and of breathing. We were all in the room at the time. Galvanism, artificial respiration, &c., were at once tried; the first caused strong contractions of the face and trunk, but had not the slightest effect on the heart, the latter was kept up for nearly half-an-hour through an opening in the trachea, but without any effect on the heart.

In this case, paralysis of that organ was so complete, that all means failed to excite its contractions, and death was the result. Those who have not seen a spectacle of this kind can hardly realise what a painful and distressing thing it is to look upon. On examination after death, the "external surface of the heart was found covered with fat;" and "the muscular structure generally was pale, and contained much fat, deposited in rows among the fibrillæ." (*British Medical Journal*, 1858, p. 207.)

The third case occurred in the out-patient room of the Infirmary, and is reported by Dr. Ludlow, the house-surgeon. The first two cases I witnessed, but I saw nothing of the last. Since the second case, no death has happened in the operation-room. I have now to mention some cases where recovery took place, under circumstances quite as bad as those before related.

CASE III.—The following case occurred at the Infirmary. I had operated on a boy for stone, under chloroform. The operation was over, the boy was untied, and about to be taken to his ward; all present had left the room, except Mr. Webster, (then a pupil), myself, and the nurses. Seeing everything safe and well, I left the table, and was going into the consultation-room, when Mr. Webster called after me to say that the pulse had stopped. On turning round, I found the boy deadly pale and pulseless, and his breathing stopped. The galvanic battery was in the theatre ready for use, and it was instantly applied. After a few seconds, both pulse and breathing returned, and the patient entirely recovered. It is impossible to imagine anything more decided than the effect of galvanism in this case, and it is the more remarkable, as the pulse ceased to beat some time after chloroform had been discontinued.