

Dr. S., namely, that by animal food, the quantity of butter in the milk is so much increased, would seem to prove that the fatty matter of the milk is formed, in a great measure at least, from the albumen.—*American Journal Medical Sciences.*

We have been favoured by witnessing some experiments performed by Dr. Richardson with new anæsthetic agent, methylic ether. This substance is made by acting on methylic alcohol with sulphuric acid, and washing the product with solution of potash. Methylic ether is obtained as a gas, but it is very soluble in ether and alcohol. One volume of water takes up thirty seven volumes of the gas. Its chemical composition is  $(CH_3)_2O$ . The specific gravity of the vapour is 23. Dr. Richardson's experiments were performed with this gas dissolved in ether to saturation. As an anæsthetic agent it differs from ordinary ether in its lower specific gravity and in the fact that blood absorbs it much more readily. (According to Dr. Richardson, blood will dissolve at 60° Fahr. as much ordinary ether as would represent twenty-two volumes of vapour. At the same temperature blood will dissolve thirty-six volumes of methylic ether vapour. At the temperature of the body, 98°, the absorption would be in nearly half these proportions—i.e., the circulating blood would take up eleven volumes of common ether vapour and eighteen volumes of methylic ether vapour.) The experiments we witnessed were made on pigeons. In one case the animal was placed under a bell-jar, and the atmosphere impregnated with methylic ether; in the other the pigeon was made to inhale the vapour from a kind of respirator. In both cases complete anæsthesia was very rapidly and easily produced. The sleep was quiet and perfect. The anæsthetic appears to produce its effect without agitation or convulsion, and it is not generally followed by sickness. In the case of one of the pigeons the eyes remained open during insensibility. The rapid action of this anæsthetic in all the experiments—less than a minute—points it out as likely to be specially useful in quick operations, such as tooth-drawing, where it is desirable that anæsthesia should be rapidly produced. Dr. Richardson has experimented on himself with this substance. It was observed that in his case there was no preliminary spasm about the larynx or elsewhere, no rigidity, no alteration of colour, or lividity. The anæsthesia was perfect, was preceded by no convulsion, and followed by no sickness. During the administration the pulse rose to about 96. We hope in a succeeding number to give our readers some further details

of experiments made with this very promising agent.—*Medical Times and Gazette.*

The important discovery has been made by M. Chauveau that vaccine matter is soluble in glycerine, the solution retaining all the active qualities of the virus. Already two physiologists have come forward to dispute M. Chauveau's claim to priority. At a late meeting of the Academy of Medicine of Paris, M. Mialhe demanded that his communication, forwarded to one of the commissions as early as April, 1867, should be read. He stated that in this communication he had completely forestalled M. Chauveau's discovery.

We would call attention to the advertisement of Messrs Codman & Shurtleff, to be found in this number.

It is quite unnecessary for us, at present, to say anything about the use of local anæsthesia and the treatment of throat and bronchial affections by the inhalation of atomized liquids, as we purpose in a future number of the JOURNAL to give some cases illustrating the beneficial results arising therefrom. It is sufficient for us to say that we have used the Shurtleff atomizer, No. 2, and can recommend it as a well made and very useful instrument, and fully sustains the reputation of this well known firm as first class manufacturers of Surgical Instruments and Appliances.

The Editors solicit original communications from the regular faculty in all parts of these Provinces; and while reserving the most absolute right of declining those which they think unsuitable, pledge themselves that all papers shall receive immediate attention.

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