

and with success in the majority of cases. He mentioned having seen one case in which the septum was destroyed and the patient had recovered to her own perfect satisfaction, without operation. No opportunity offered for a subsequent examination in this case. He favored keeping the bowels loose during the convalescence, and was inclined to ascribe much of the good result in Dr. Alloway's case to this condition. In conclusion, he asked why ether was used in preference to chloroform. He personally favored the use of chloroform, as the voluntary muscles are more relaxed by its use, and lying-in women appeared to enjoy immunity from its poisonous action. If pushed to its full action it tends to favor flooding, but he thought this action was due more to its lessening reflex irritability than from any other cause.

In reply, Dr. Alloway said he invariably uses ether, feeling much safer with it, and has never met with that relaxation of the uterus which he has frequently noticed after using chloroform. Dr. Cameron also favored immediate operation in these cases, as the difficulties are increased the longer it is put off; he thought sutures of silver wire were preferable to those of silk in the rectal tear, and these were easily applied by means of Pean's needles. Dr. Roddick thought sutures of catgut were specially advisable in the rectal tear, as they required no further attention; he also recommended the use of intermediate sutures of catgut in the perineum as being preferable to all wire. Accidents with chloroform are rare in midwifery practice owing to the minor degree of anæsthesia induced, and the eagerness with which it is taken as a rule, whereas in general surgery the patients frequently resist, and thus, possibly, the danger is increased. Dr. Ross complimented the reader of the paper on the readiness with which he had made use of the means at his disposal in the emergency, but thought he was singular in the use of ether in preference to chloroform, and that he had shown no special reason why the latter should not be used. The fact that flooding had followed its use was merely a *post hoc* argument, and it might also occur with ether; at the same time, he recognized the great danger of using chloroform in ordinary surgical practice. The great inflammability of ether, its bulk, and the offensiveness of its odor, all argue strongly against its use in midwifery practice.

Drs. Macdonnell and Mills also took part in the discussion, after which the meeting adjourned.

*Stated Meeting, October 6th, 1882.*

GEORGE ROSS, M.D., PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR.

This being the first meeting in October, was also the annual meeting.

*President's Address.*—The President, in delivering his address, gave a short *resumé* of the work of the Society during the past year, but, before proceeding to do so, made allusion to the removal by death of Dr. George W. Campbell, one of the Society's oldest and most respected members. He had always taken an active interest in the work of the Society, until failing health compelled him, unwillingly, however, to absent himself from its meetings. The Society has had to mourn his loss, but by his example should be stimulated to further exertion in its work. The question of public health was next referred to. During the past year a draft of a bill was prepared by the City Health Officer and the advising attorney for the purpose of seeking for the incorporation of a complete system of supervision of public health; this was submitted to a joint committee from the Board of Health and from the Medical Societies. This bill has not yet become law, but there is a prospect of its soon passing the Legislature. In August last the city was honored by the presence of the members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, among whom were many medical men from the United States and Europe. The meetings have been regularly held, the attendance has always been good, and the amount of work done has been very satisfactory. A number of interesting papers have been read by members, the topics of which have been extremely varied, and in most instances have given rise to animated and profitable discussions. The pathological specimens and anatomical preparations exhibited during the year have also been numerous and interesting.

At this stage of the proceedings, Dr. Osler announced that Dr. Workman of Toronto, who had been on a recent visit to this city, was about leaving, and before allowing him to do so, thought the Society should in some way express to him its sense of his many excellent qualities and its high appreciation of the services rendered by him to the medical profession. He then moved the following resolution, seconded by Dr. F. W. Campbell:—"Resolved,—That the members of