

experience has shown that such is the case. The influx of blood to the brain causes the brain to act on the heart, and the heart returns the favor, and by keeping the lungs in motion the blood is purified, consciousness returns and all is merry as a marriage-bell; however a marriage-bell will next minute toll for a funeral if necessary, so do not stop operations too soon.

I would like to impress on you the fact that the cessation of the breathing, the prolonged unconsciousness, or even the ceasing of the heart's action, does not mean death. Now the last spoken of, nearly always is taken to be a positive sign of death; but if you think for a moment you will see that, even if that were true, you have no way of telling that the heart has ceased to act. You cannot see it, and outside of this the heart does rest, stop perfectly still for a short time, every beat it takes; now, why cannot this period of rest be increased to a minute, ten minutes or an hour, and then be made to cease, and the heart resume its functions?

In the case of the girl who was dead for so long, that I mentioned a while ago, it is absurd to say the heart had not stopped beating; undoubtedly it had, and resumed its beat.

From the foregoing remarks you will see, the great necessity of keeping your head about you and not getting frightened, as you have every reason to believe that all you have to do is bring the patient back to life by hard work.

In speaking of artificial respiration, a few paragraphs back, I forgot to say the patient should be in an inverted position.

Well, I think I have said enough on this subject, perhaps I have overstepped my twenty minutes already; however I would like to mention the fact that although death from disease is supposed to be such a terrible thing, really it is almost a pleasant thing, as some men who have been conscious when dying have told. The CO_2 which is generated and not carried away acts as an anæsthetic to the brain, and all the senses become benumbed; one feels an absence of pain, and a delightful feeling of rest overcomes the dying. The contortions of the muscles are no more indications of pain than the screaming in the excitable period of ether-anæsthesia, or the crying on the recovery from gas; they simply in death mean that some of the nerve-centres are becoming paralyzed.
