

The first case of which I will speak I saw with a physician who called on me in a very unpleasant emergency. The patient was a strong-looking man somewhere about 40 years of age, who was being treated for nasal polypi. On this occasion, to reduce the sensitiveness of the membrane prior to using the instruments, pledgets of cotton saturated with a five per cent. solution of cocaine were introduced into the nose. The physician told me that shortly after he introduced the cocaine the patient complained of a constriction in the throat, became very pale, and commenced to gasp for breath. Although he used various means for the relief of the condition, instead of improving it became worse, and the difficulty of respiration increasing, he called on me. It was about ten minutes after the use of the cocaine that I saw the man. Then there was stridulous breathing, a pallid, anxious countenance, twitching of the muscles of the body, and a frequent clutching at the throat. In fact there were all the symptoms of great nervous excitement and of alarming laryngeal spasm. Recognizing that some nervous sedative and antispasmodic was indicated we determined to try nitrite of amyl, which acted so satisfactorily, that, after the inhalation of three pearls of five drops each, the spasm had so relaxed that the breathing again became easy, and the general nervous excitement quieted down.

The symptoms in the second case were not so alarming, but were unusual. This was a young lady about 20 years of age. I sprayed into her larynx a small quantity of a four cent. solution of cocaine before applying galvano-cautery to a small laryngeal excrescence, which was on the free edge of the anterior portion of the left vocal cord. Immediately after using the spray her face and lips became pallid and I feared she would faint. She seemed almost to have lost control of the motion of the tongue, the speech became very indistinct. She complained of feeling a large lump in her throat and told me that her lips were perfectly numb. On testing this I found her statement correct, although I am sure the spray had not touched them. When she left my office she was still speaking with a "thick" tongue; and afterwards she said that this continued all that day (about ten