

as not to impair the general tone is now removed. Again, opiates are apt to leave a feeling of depression and other marks of disordered innervation. The only symptom of the kind after chloral, in proper doses, has been headache. Where the patient has his sleep out it does not occur; and, under any circumstances, it has not happened in more than ten per cent. of those who have taken the drug, and it has not lasted more than an hour. The very cases where opiates are likely to be injurious are those where chloral may be employed beneficially; for example, certain brain affections where cerebral congestion threatens to be imminent, and especially cases of uræmic poisoning; also in certain cardiac cases, where to stimulate the heart or embarrass the respiration would be detrimental, chloral may be safely given, as it induces neither of these effects.

Secondly.—Chloral is *SURER* than other agents of the same class. Its action is not so likely to be prevented by the conditions that oppose these others. It has a wider range of applicability. Usually it may be given wherever sleep is needed, be the cause almost what it may. It may be resorted to under circumstances quite opposite to one another, in insomnia attended with gastric disorder or nervous exhaustion—with fever or without—with delirium or not—with structural brain disease or mere anæmic disorder. It is not contra-indicated by any age; it is as appropriate in early or advanced life as during the intermediate periods. Chloral sleep is, again, more prolonged, more calm, more refreshing than sleep from other narcotics. Like other medicines, however, it may fail, but its failures are less frequent. In three cases where it was given under my directions, at the General Hospital, it failed. In one case  $\text{ʒij}$  was the dose, in each of the others 3 ss. In these it caused either a slight dizziness or drowsiness with more or less of a feeling of intoxication. One of these persons was in the habit taking an after dinner nap, and he blamed the chloral for keeping him out of it, as it had been given just before, and he continued wide awake afterwards. These three patients did not need it. They knew what was expected to happen, and the interest this aroused may have helped to defeat the end in view. In upwards of seventy persons to whom it was given in the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, no sleep is reported to have followed in thirty. In some rare instances its effect is postponed for twenty-four hours, as sometimes occurs with morphia, &c. The success of chloral depends upon the circumstances under which the patient is placed, his habits, the time of its administration, quality, &c. Much talking, or a bright light in the room, or moving about of the patient, will impede its action, as they do the action of other cerebro-spinants. Inebriates appear to resist its action.