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CONVENIENT LOCAL ANÆSTHETICS IN MINOR SURGERY.

A REVIEW OF A FEW PRACTICAL POINTS.

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In this age of heroic surgical treatment we are apt to under-estimate the pain suffered in many minor surgical ailments, and to banish the little precautions which are so essential to the comfort of the sufferer.

In the hurry of many visits one is apt to forget that simple anæsthetic cold, in the form of cracked ice or snow, mixed with a little salt, will deaden pain when using the lance or needle. When some local affection only is being treated, the nervous system, and consequently the sensibility to pain, is not depressed as it is in many graver conditions, and one should not gauge the actual suffering by the extent of the lesion. A few minutes spent in the application of cold is amply rewarded by the increased comfort of the patient. Cold as produced by the evaporation of chloride of ethyl acts more superficially, and is sometimes so rapid in its action as to cause pain. If applied longer the tissues are frozen to such an extent as to interfere with a plastic operation of any great extent.

Subcutaneous injections of various drugs in fluid form have proved the most successful and lasting of local anæsthetics. Many drugs have been recommended from time to