

By using this one we can be sufficiently free from anxiety to be able to devote almost all our attention to the operation, while in using chloroform, one is hardly justified in performing even the slightest operation without assistance. But if it has any advantage on this score in general practice, it has it to a far greater degree in the practice of midwifery, for there we have often to deal with a nervous, albeit, exhausted and excitable patient, to whom the administration of chloroform is a proceeding requiring almost undivided attention on account of the danger, while the administration of ether so much increases the excitement that it would take a very smart man indeed to administer the vapor and to handle the instruments at the same time, but by using the A. C. E. mixture one can intrust it with safety to the nurse, or, as I often do, to the patient herself. In any very tedious case I hand the patient the bottle of it arranged with a sprinkler, such as is found on scent bottles, and allow her to use it as often as she likes.

The records of fatal cases of chloroformisation show that many of them occur in the dentist's chair. This has been explained by the fact that chloroform diminishes the amount of blood circulating in the brain, and that the erect position still further augments the cerebral anæmia, so that in these cases death is as much due to fainting as to the destructive action of the chloroform on the nerve cells of the medulla. For this reason ether is undoubtedly a much safer anæsthetic for dental surgery. But, on the other hand, it frequently takes so long to get the patient anæsthetized, during which time two skilled professional men are kept waiting, and, moreover, the period of excitement is so distasteful to the friends who generally accompany the patient, to say nothing of the large quantity of material required, that the administration of ether to a point of complete insensibility is both tedious and disagreeable.

For these cases, however, I have found the A. C. E. mixture especially suitable.

Many of the dentists in whose offices I have used it, testify enthusiastically to the rapidity with which the patient becomes unconscious, to the perfect quietness, absolutely free from excitement, with which they go under its influence, and to the very short time they require to completely recover. Of course this immunity from danger and absence of the period of excitation are due, the former to the presence of alcohol, and the latter to the pre-

sence of chloroform, in the mixture. It has long been the custom in many of the London hospitals to administer a dose of alcohol to the patient about to undergo chloroformisation, but is it not better and more effectual to administer the antidote with the poison rather than before or after it?

Another very important advantage is the almost total absence of vomiting.

Out of the one hundred and some odd occasions on which I have administered it I have never seen the A. C. E. mixture produce vomiting, although occasionally I have known it to cause nausea for a time, but not to anything like the same extent as that produced by ether or chloroform alone. So tedious used Mr. Clover, a few years ago, to find the use of ether alone, in producing anæsthesia, that he was in the habit of using laughing gas first, and continuing with ether only after the patient had become unconscious. But this is altogether out of the question in daily practice, where many a doctor has to be his own chloroformist. While in these cases in which he used chloroform, so fearful was Mr. Clover of its dangers that he nearly always took care to have it accurately mixed in proportion of half a drachm in a thousand cubic inches of air. But even this, while a perfectly safe procedure, is too complicated a one for general adoption, so that we would all probably gladly welcome any drug, or combination of drugs, that would combine safety, efficacy and smallness of quantity required. These desiderata are found, I believe, in the A. C. E. mixture. As the mixture only contains a third part of chloroform, which is admitted to be the dangerous element, we have the advantage of giving the poison in a comparatively dilute form, in other words before we can kill him with the chloroform we shall have anæsthetized him with the ether, and stimulated him with both the alcohol and ether. In other words again, the patient inhales four parts of stimulant for two of depressant.

It certainly is a matter of fact that we can produce complete anæsthesia during a longer period with six drachms of the A. C. E. mixture than we could with two drachms of chloroform alone. And while alcohol alone cannot be endured as an anæsthetic, introduced through the lungs, although the oldest employed through the stomach, yet when mixed with chloroform and ether it ceases to irritate the bronchial tubes.

The question may arise whether bichloride of methylene and the A. C. E. mixture are one and