

chloroform, which being promptly volatilized at the temperature of the stomach and before long being decomposed by the process of digestion, ought to be expected to act as a local anæsthetic, even though the dose should not be sufficient to produce any change in the functions of the brain.

The first patient who presented the conditions requisite for this experiment was a married woman, and a mother, aged 33, of a querulous disposition, as well marked by her countenance, and who had been on a former occasion under his care, and that of another practitioner, complaining of a variety of pains in the abdominal region; and she, although relieved, still persevered in the belief that she still had some internal disease. She now appeared to labour under spinal neuralgia. After this had yielded to the application of nitrate of silver to the spine, and some other remedies, she still continued to feel an indescribable sensation of depression, and of internal annoyance, no longer to be referred to the spinal nerves—no cause for it could be detected. The appetite was good, and the action of the bowels regular. In two days after taking ten drops of chloroform thrice daily, she began, for the first time, to acknowledge that she was better, and in a few days afterwards was free from complaint. The second case was that of a caretaker in the Linenhall, aged 29. He complained of the deepest dejection of spirits, and of an uncontrollable aversion to any exertion. His countenance expressed sadness and moroseness. All the functions were in a healthy state, except that the heart's action became tumultuous when excited by either emotion or exercise; but no organic disease could be detected. He stated that he had not been addicted to excess of any kind, and that there was no cause for his lowness of spirits. He got valerianate of zinc, and also pills to regulate his bowels; but, although the heart's action became steadier, yet the depression and inward sensation continued the same. After taking twenty drops of chloroform thrice daily for two days, he began to confess what he never did before, that he was better. His sleep being still unsatisfactory and disturbed by disagreeable dreams, he was ordered to take forty drops at bedtime. He now stated that he slept with a pleasing dream of seeing his brother, who had gone to America. During the two following nights he took the same dose; and although the sleep was interrupted by the disturbance attendant on a man in a dying state in the same ward, yet when he did sleep his dreams were pleasant, being usually that he was enjoying the company of the most agreeable of his friends. He was dismissed with a marked improvement in his countenance, and acknowledging that he was better.

These cases are selected as being nearly free from complication. It must, however, be recollected, that there are several other uses to which chloroform may be applied in affections of the stomach and intestinal tube, but this appears to be one of the greatest value, inasmuch as no other medicine can be named which in this respect seems to come into competition with it.—How far the effect is permanent and capable of completely removing the sensation of hypochondriasis, or in what degree it may require to be resumed or repeated, Dr. Osborne as yet has not been able to determine; neither did he think it necessary before this association to clear himself from the absurdity of bringing it forward as a universal *nepenthes*.

With regard to the mode of administering chloroform internally—as its specific gravity is nearly 1.5, and it is insoluble in water, it must, when swallowed, soon settle at the bottom of the fluids in the stomach; and although it is volatilized, yet being covered, and under pressure, it may remain in contact sufficiently long to irritate the stomach at the part of the contact, as was proved to take place in the case of camphor by Orfila.

Hence, then, it is desirable that it should be diffused or diluted before it is taken. In aqueous mixtures, even when shaken up, it soon falls, so that it cannot be equally measured out, and its pungency is annoying even to the mouth. In gum Arabic mucilage it soon collects in larger globules at the bottom of the bottle, covered with a white powder of arabine which it has precipitated. To obviate this inconvenience, it has been proposed to give it