

the face, and all the signs of engorgement of the lungs and heart, and died in convulsions six hours after."

Murphy has published a case nearly similar; he also admits "that vomiting, nausea and headache sometimes follow on its use." Nausea and vomiting were also present in one of Denham's cases.

Rigby states, "that intense headache, and even vomiting, are consequences of its use."

Parks give the case of a lady, in whom, after chloroform inhalation, flooding came on to a fearful extent, and incessant sickness. He managed to extract the placenta; and, owing to the feeble contractions of the uterus (and this latter condition, he is confident, it often produces), he was kept grasping it for four or five hours; the vomiting continued for eight hours without intermission; the headache remained for weeks.

Tyler Smith "believed that post partum hæmorrhage and retention of the placenta occurred more frequently after its use than without it."

Montgomery was of opinion "that it predisposes to retained placenta and hæmorrhage."

My friend Dr. Young, before alluded to, says:—"I have blamed it for causing a longer detention of the placenta, and for occasional after-hæmorrhage, owing to the lazy and inefficient contraction of the uterus. After its use opiates have very little effect; even very decided doses, in any form, have not been followed by that tranquillity I have hoped for, in that violent pain which I have so often found to follow operations when chloroform had been used."

Murphy speaks of being obliged to "press upon the uterus to expel the placenta, in two cases, after chloroform.

Some of the loudest advocates for chloroform inhalation in labor have, in order to counteract its deleterious effects upon uterine action, recommended the co-administration of ergot of rye; which practice reminds me of the astute physician who, to be sure to hit his patient's disease, prescribed for him the combination of a stimulant with a sedative.

Outsack and others have also testified to the deleterious effects of this drug upon the cerebro-spinal system of the infant.

Dr. Aveling speaks of "a lady who had chloroform in three labors, all of whose children, when upwell, had for years afterwards the smell distinctly of their breaths. This lady would never take it again."

Dr. Jackson (an American) thus writes upon the subject:—"When chloroform is inhaled into the lungs, the oxygen is abstracted from the blood, and, combining with the formyle, makes formic acid, while the chlorine combines with the blood as a substitute for oxygen. Thus a portion of the blood becomes chemically changed, disorganised, and rendered unfit for its vital functions.

Denham says:—"There are cases in which chloroform appeared to be not only useless, but, when persevered in, positively injurious." And again:—"In giving chloroform we incur a certain amount of present danger, and perchance of remote ill effects."

Dr. Robert Lee, in reply to a letter from me, says:—"I could give you a great number of cases in which chloroform was not only injurious, but fatal."

Dr. Gream said:—"He agreed with Dr. Lee in saying that we were quite unacquainted with con-

tench of the evil effects which had resulted from the use of chloroform, particularly in Scotland."

Dr. Duncan, in a letter to Dr. Lee, thus writes:—"Your case of chloroform death in midwifery is, to the best of my belief, not the only one in Scotland. I was called, too late, to a case which died suddenly while taking it in small quantity."

Dr. Campbell, of Ayrshire, records another case of death in labor from its use. Mr. Carter says "that in two cases its effects would appear to have been pernicious."

Prof. Faye, of Christians, has also recorded a fatal case of labor after its use.

Dr. Rogers said "he knew of a case where death took place apparently in consequence of its use in midwifery."

Dr. Barnes says:—"In ordinary forceps cases chloroform certainly is not required, either to facilitate the operation or to allay pain. Indeed by its use in such cases we lose one very valuable indication in the loss of our patient's sense of feeling."

Dr. Chas. Kidd does not consider its use devoid of danger, as he advises the physician who administers it "always to carry in his pocket a portable galvanic chain or battery.

Drs. Kidd and Richardson are reported as having seen many deaths after its employment; and the former gentleman "to have seen about 300 cases restored to life or rescued after they had been pronounced dead.

I would ask, in the name of common sense, is it within the bounds of reason to believe that a medicine can be employed innocuously with the pregnant female, when confessedly its use has often been followed, not only by dangerous, but even fatal results under other circumstances, as testified to by Drs. Kidd and Richardson, amongst many others, as also by almost every periodical we take up.

We have been told that across the Tweed death has not, in any instance, followed upon the inhalation of chloroform in labor, whereas some have been since recorded; and not very long ago I was informed, by more than one physician practising in Scotland, that many have so occurred there, but not made public, yet well known to the profession.

It is also a fact that some who have written favorably on its use have since changed their opinions, but have not said so publicly. Some give it only in name, or as has been styled *à la Reine*, making their patients believe that they are saved from a vast amount of pain, when in reality they have scarcely inhaled a single breath of it.

We very frequently see better and safer recoveries after tedious and painful than after rapid and painless labors, and the latter are not the less likely to be seriously complicated; indeed in former days, when, happy for the parturient female, chloroform was unknown, and when meddling midwifery was strongly reprobated, such an opinion was entertained.

Even though it were possible to divest chloroform of its dangers, it does not, as has been already shown, always produce the advantages expected from its use, as in version; for indeed not a few instances have been recorded of its having been an impediment to this operation, which in some cases could not be overcome. I cannot see any advantage derivable from the inhalation of this poisonous drug in cases of retained placenta, as generally such a complication is caused by inaction of the uterus; and our object, therefore, ought to be to induce uterine action, surely not further to paralyse it.