

normal, but regular, the respiration slow and somewhat heavy, the patient is completely anæsthetised.

If the chloroform is now continued without abatement dangerous symptoms will soon be seen. The pupil becomes suddenly fully dilated and fixed, the globes prominent, the respiratory movements, weak, irregular and sighing, the heart beats irregular and feeble, the face very pale; the commencement of these symptoms marks the beginning of the third stage, or that of profound narcosis.

I stated that the stage of excitement was the most dangerous period in the administration of chloroform. But almost equally dangerous, if unfortunately it becomes necessary to enter it, and sometimes it is necessary, is the stage of profound narcosis.

Now, between these two danger points is the comparative safety ground in which the surgeon must work, the stage of unconsciousness.

The amount of chloroform it takes to complete the second stage varies widely in different individuals, and a due appreciation of this fact will enable the administrator to proceed with comfort. For instance, if he finds the patient, after he is completely anæsthetised, can stand the continuous application of the chloroform, as in the first stage, without developing any dangerous signs, for a limited time, he can fairly make up his mind that he has a good subject to deal with.

It is clear, therefore, that the object of the administrator during the operation should be to avoid these two danger points; on the one hand not to allow the patient to so far recover as to allow the reflexes to operate, and on the other to be careful not to endanger the centres of respiration and circulation by too much chloroform.

But this is not always easily accomplished. I have given chloroform to patients, one in particular, in which there seemed to be little or no second stage of comparative safety; no sooner would the reflexes be abolished and the operator ready to proceed than alarming symptoms would show themselves. These are dangerous cases.

The best way, however, to guard against the first danger is to