

On this great question the Hyderabad Commission say that the effects of chloroform are indetical in the lower animals and in the human subject. This surprising statement is followed by the recommendation that the administrator should be guided as to the effect entirely by the respiration. "His only object, while producing anæsthesia, is to see that the respiration is not interfered with." They are further of the opinion that if the directions given by them in respect to attending to the breathing are closely followed, chloroform may be given in any case requiring an operation with perfect ease and absolute safety so as to do good without the risk of evil. As an editorial in the *Lancet* has it, "The practical outcome of the research would appear to be that deaths from chloroform are not inevitable. They are therefore preventible, and by due care in its administration they may be with certainty avoided."

These very extraordinary statements are made with an assurance which will carry conviction to the minds of many medical men, and the inevitable result will be disastrous. If there is a surely established clinical fact, it is, in our opinion, that chloroform does cause death by directly paralyzing the heart, and the only way to prevent and combat this paralyzing influence is to watch the pulse and resort to those measures which experience has shown to be useful in such conditions. Inversion of the patient and the employment of hot applications to the cardiac region are the most trustworthy.

To advise that the administrator should watch the respirations only is going back to that early period in the history of chloroform anæsthesia when clinical facts derived from its action on man were few.

THE PNEUMONIC COMPLICATIONS OF INFLUENZA.

A very striking feature of the recent epidemic of influenza was the complications of bronchitis and pneumonia. In some parts the frequency of the latter complication was so marked as to lead one distinguished observer (Nothnagel) to suggest that there was a veritable endemic of pneumonia in addition to the influenza epidemic. As pointed out by Kundrat, lobular pneu-