

Ether as an Antidote to Cocaine Poisoning. J. E. Engstadt.*Jour. Amer. Med. Assoc.*

The author has frequently had occasion to treat cases of cocaine poisoning, the result of injection of cocaine for dental purposes. Strychnine and morphine he found too slow in action to be depended upon in urgent cases. Ether inhalations, however, stimulate the vasomotor system and have a powerful tonic effect upon the heart muscles, acting almost instantly. The anæsthetic should be administered only to the degree of mild surgical narcosis, or, at times, even less than this. A mask should be employed and the ether given by the drop method. This is important, as, given by the old method, the ether would only add to the danger of asphyxia by excluding air from the venous blood-engorged lungs. The same treatment is useful also for stovaine poisoning.

Why He Knew He was Alive

A certain young man's friends thought he was dead, but he was only in a state of coma. When, in ample time to avoid being buried, he showed signs of life, he was asked how it seemed to be dead.

"Dead?" he exclaimed, "I wasn't dead. I knew all that was going on. And I knew I wasn't dead, too, because my feet were cold and I was hungry."

"But how did that fact make you think you were still alive?" asked one of the curious.

"Well, this way: I knew that if I were in heaven I wouldn't be hungry. And if I was in the other place my feet wouldn't be cold."

Calcium Lactate in Post-Partum Haemorrhage. A. W. Ausems,
Nederl. Tijdschr. voor Geneesk.

Six cases, multiparæ who had suffered more or less from hæmorrhage in previous confinements, were given daily doses of 3.0 grammes (45 grains) of calcium lactate for a period varying from some days to several weeks before delivery. In all cases hæmorrhage appeared to be less than normal, but the author is not satisfied as to the success of the treatment. In a girl of thirteen years, however, suffering from metrorrhagia which had refused to yield to hydrastis or ergotin, calcium lactate arrested the discharge in three days.—*The Prescriber.*