

suggested to the jury, that, as *no yellowness* of the stomach was observed on the examination of an exhumed body, this was to be taken as a medical presumption that arsenic was not present in the body, and had not been the cause of death."

(To be continued.)

THERAPEUTICS.

CHLORURETTED HYDROCHLORIC ETHER, A NEW ANÆSTHETIC AGENT JUST INTRODUCED BY DR. SNOW.

In witnessing some operations performed by Mr. Fergusson, Saturday, June 21, we learned that Dr. Snow was using, with much success, a new anæsthetic agent called chloruretted hydrochloric ether, which Dr. Snow believes had not been administered before, except in an operation in this hospital on the previous day, when Mr. W. Hewett, the house-surgeon, removed some venereal warts from a patient in one of the wards, and applied strong nitric acid to the raw surface.

The substance is called by its discoverer, M. V. Regnault *l'ether hydrochlorique monochloruré*. It is the first of a series of five bodies which he formed by decomposing muriatic ether by means chlorine gas in the sunshine. A liquid which is a mixture of these bodies, has been used for some months in Paris by M. Aran, a very zealous experimentalist, as a local application to relieve and prevent pain. Dr. Snow having procured a quantity of this through the kindness of Mr. Morson, chemist, of London, separated the first and more volatile of the liquids by distillation, and he thinks that it possesses some advantage over chloroform.—*Lancet*.

ON THE USE OF TURPENTINE IN MIDWIFERY.

By John Evelyn Crook, M.R.C.S.E.

The turpentine enema, although frequently used, and with the best results, in abortions, to bring on reflex action of the uterus, and expel the ovum when unduly retained, has, I believe, been rarely, if ever, resorted to in labours under similar circumstances, the ergot of rye being almost exclusively used for that purpose; yet, from the success that has attended the many cases in which I have used it where the uterine action has been deficient, I am convinced that turpentine, when properly applied, is a most valuable remedy. I believe that the stimulant, acting upon the excitor nerves terminating in the rectum, is more sure to bring on the reflex action of the uterus, than when the same is taken into the stomach, and has also the advantage of not causing vomiting. On referring to my book, I might give you a long list of cases where the os uteri has been fully dilated, the head tolerably low down, and the membranes ruptured, yet from the want of the requisite pains (notwithstanding the administration of the ergot,) the woman has remained four, five, and even six hours, much in the same state, the labour making little or no progress; but upon the injection of the turpentine, good pains have come on, and the patient has been quickly delivered. I generally use about three ounces of turpentine, mixed with about the same quantity of mucilage.

Should you think this paper worthy of insertion in your popular journal, I shall feel obliged by your doing so, and I doubt not but those of the profession who make trial of it, will find it save them and their patients many hours of unnecessary anxiety and pain.—*Lancet*.