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HYPODERMIC ANESTHESIA.*

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THE question of hypodermic anesthesia has apparently not excited a very lively interest among our Canadian surgeons and physicians, but our professional neighbors have put it to the test and are constantly using that method. What is meant by hypodermic anesthesia is the production of general anesthesia by hypodermic medication.

It has been already used in many thousands of cases with only four deaths reported under its use, and it is claimed that those were not due entirely to the anesthesia. Therefore, it would seem worth while for us to look into it and ascertain if it has any advantages over the ordinary anesthesia, namely, ether and chloroform.

It would be a decided advantage to find something easier to administer and safer than the volatile anesthetics, for none will deny that there is considerable danger associated with ether and chloroform narcosis.

During the present month there was one death from chloroform in the dentist's chair reported by the newspapers in our own province.

Dr. Samuel Johnston, an expert in anesthesia, has even thought it worth while to write an article for *The Canadian Practitioner* on the "Danger Signals of Anesthesia."

The mortality statistics taken from large hospitals, where they have special anesthetists and the best appliances and assistance, do not look very formidable.

* Read before the Ontario Medical Association, Hamilton, 1908.