

from incident influence on the medulla oblongata, and evidenced especially by failure of the cardiac force, and loss or decrease of pulsation in the carotids.

In cases of dislocated bones of difficult reduction vagal pressure presents several advantages possessed by no other means with which I am acquainted, as it is unattended with any kind of danger, and is always at hand in any emergency, however sudden. As an illustration of this I may state the following case of very recent occurrence. —

M. C —, a journeyman baker, a powerful and athletic man. In consequence of a fall downstairs the head of the humerus was dislocated beneath the clavicle. Dr G. Julliard, whose patient he was, made an ineffectual attempt in the morning to reduce alone the fracture by placing his heel in the axilla. Some hours later Dr J. L. Prevost and myself accompanied Dr. Julliard to give our assistance.

While the man was lying on the bed some unavailing attempts at reduction were made, when Dr Julliard sent for chloroform. In the meantime I proposed to make another attempt with the assistance of compression of the vagus. After removing the pillows at the head, and arranging the patient more comfortably than before, I took my station at the head of the bed to apply compression on both sides, while Dr. Julliard grasped the limb, and Dr. Prevost performed counter-extension. At the end of two or three minutes, as near as I could judge, just as I felt the two carot' 's no longer beating beneath my fingers, a sudden click indicated the return of the bone into its socket.

In this instance, although the chloroform had only to be procured from a chemist's in the same house, the patient was bandaged and arranged comfortably before the messenger returned with the chloroform.

This case, however, offers but a faint instance of the advantage attendant upon a means of asthma always ready at hand in the various emergencies of country practice.

The advantages of vagal compression as compared to chloroform are great from the relative innocuousness of the former agent. The administration of chloroform in the most skilful hands, and while surrounded with all the appliances of hospital practice, is still undeniably attended with a certain amount of danger, which is greatly increased when there is no medical man present to watch its effects. So much is this the case that, as Dr Prevost pointed out to me, there were three fatal cases from chloroform within a few days' interval in the