

tion of substances which, from the frequency of their employment for murder and suicide, are of great practical importance. I have chosen the latter course."

Dr. T. has kept pace with the march of intellect over the ground of Toxicology, and has embodied in this new edition such new cases and additions to the previous literature as have fallen under his notice in the interim, and been judged by him deserving of appropriation. He has, for instance, some interesting pages upon various Anæsthetics.—Speaking of Chloroform vapor, he refers to 50 fatal cases, and subsequently remarks:—

"Fatal cases have been proportionally much more numerous from the use of chloroform vapor than from ether vapor. In some of these, latent morbid conditions of the heart or brain may have led to the unfortunate result; in others the improper mode of administering the vapor. But there have been undoubtedly cases in which, with the exercise of proper skill and care, death has still occurred."

Although not near so often poisonous, yet ether also, by inhalation, has undoubtedly destroyed life in the human subject. Four cases are mentioned where such a result followed this cause. Death, however, appears to be more delayed: when the time has been defined, three hours is the shortest interval between death and the exhibition of the letheon, and generally it is much more contracted.

Some American Surgeons have been very favorably impressed with the supposed advantages of a combination of chloroform and ether, in the proportion of one part of the former to four parts of the latter; principal recommendation being that it is perfectly safe. This observation, however, is not entirely true, as might have been expected from a little reflection; for, if both the components have been prejudicial and injurious, it is scarcely to be expected that their mutual union should yield an innocuous compound. Dr. T. refers to an instance where—

"One drachm of this mixture, administered with due precaution (in vapor), caused death in a few minutes."

An anæsthetic more recent than the preceding in its employment, and yet less often resorted to, is Amylene. In the course of his short notice of it, our author relates:—

"Its use has already led to at least two deaths; and on the whole it does not appear to be so safe an agent as chloroform vapor for surgical purposes."

Those of our readers who remember the prominent and distinguished position which Dr. T. held in the case of *Reg. v. Palmer* (1856), reported in the *Medical Chronicle* for that year, will be prepared to hear that he