

chloroform taken is never sufficient to keep the patient insensible, but to limit the severity of the pain, to take away the acuteness of the sting. Generally, when the last pain comes, a larger quantity is allowed; and at this period the patient is generally clamorous for more; so when the child has been given to the nurse or placed at the foot of the bed, the patient is still under the influence of the anæsthetic agent. And so the steps above recommended, may all be taken ere the mother regain her senses, to know in joy, that her child is born.

Belleville, Ontario, Canada, February, 1868.

On the use of Carbolic Acid in Surgery. By D. S. E. BAIN, F.R.C.S.,
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In the columns of the *Lancet* during the past year, Professor Lister, of Glasgow, was the first to bring before the medical world the uses to which carbolic acid could be advantageously applied, and notwithstanding the controversy which has since arisen on this subject, it must be admitted that Mr. Lister has the honour of having brought prominently forward in the columns of the *Lancet*, the uses to which this acid can be applied externally. From Mr. Lister's favourable description, I was induced to try it in various ways: the first was a case of carbuncle, only remarkable for the method of treatment. It occurred in the ordinary situation, viz., the nape of the neck, free incisions were made, and a pledget of lint saturated with carbolic acid was inserted in the wound, over which a solution of the acid in glycerine (3j. ℥j), was used as the ordinary dressing. Within 48 hours the slough separated, leaving a clean healthy surface which healed rapidly under the daily application of the acid in glycerine. From the marked success in this instance, I suggested its use in various degrees of strength, according to the nature of the affection. Thus in sloughing (syphilitic) ulcers, and in sluggish ill conditioned sores on the extremities, this application has met every requirement in the most perfect manner. To cite other cases, a few weeks back, a serious gun-shot accident occurred to a young girl 16 years of age, carrying away the greater portion of the lower jaw, wounding the tongue and destroying much of the soft parts. The dressing at my suggestion consisted of carbolic acid and glycerine (3i—℥i) which was applied by saturating lint and placing it *carefully* in all the crevices. The hæmorrhage which was severe, ceased, and the subsequent discharge was healthy without the slightest unpleasant odour, portions of bone came away in the shape of exfoliations in some four weeks after the accident, without the slightest perceptible fetor, and I am happy to add that the girl is now convalescent.

Quebec, 12th February, 1868.