

for hours, or even days. The cases that apparently require it most—tedious and difficult labors—are those where it often appears to be injurious, by weakening the pains or relaxing the muscles of animal life." Rigby says:—"We meet with cases, every now and then, where chloroform undoubtedly retards labor, and in some cases likely to call for the use of the forceps."

Dr. Robert Lee mentions cases in which "uterine contractions were arrested, requiring the use of the forceps, and the destruction of the child by the perforator."

Tyler Smith "has seen chloroform stop labor midway."

In some of the cases recorded by Sinclair and Johnston, uterine action was impaired.

My friend Dr. Young, of Monaghan, says, in a letter to me:—"I believe chloroform in many instances to delay the labor, by causing the pains to come at longer intervals, and rendering the expulsive efforts of the patient less efficient, owing to her insensibility to suffering."

Morrison has mentioned a case in which the uterus was so paralyzed that it failed to act afterwards.

Snow says:—"It is true that a full dose would, at any time, suspend uterine action for a few minutes, or as long as it might be kept up."

On looking into Drs. Sinclair and Johnston's report, we find "two cases in which version was very difficult; and two others, in which that operation was impossible, where chloroform had been inhaled."

Murphy thus speaks:—"In a case of version, I never experienced so much difficulty, in consequence of the strong contractions of the uterine fibres about the child."

Barnes remarks:—"In many cases it does not facilitate the operation of version, the uterus resisting the introduction of the hand."

Puerperal, hysterical, and epileptic convulsions, mania, paralysis, and insanity have followed on its use. Cases are recorded by Montgomery, Sinclair, and Denham, in which puerperal convulsions occurred after its employment. Sinclair gives two cases of hysterical convulsions, in one of which violent muscular action was induced and restlessness continued for a considerable time after the inhaler was removed.

Murphy states that, "in dentistry, hysterical women have been seized with fits when under its influence."

Snow asserts that "hysterical patients, as soon as they lose their consciousness from the effects of the vapor, are sometimes attacked with a paroxysm of hysteria."

Dr. R. Lee says:—"Epilepsy has been so induced."

Sinclair records one case of epilepsy.

Snow and M. Fix have stated "that persons subject to epilepsy are likely to have a fit brought on by inhaling chloroform."

Ramsbotham "saw three cases of puerperal mania so caused. A friend of his also saw one similar case."

Sutherland "met three other cases similarly produced."

Tyler Smith stated "that he had seen mania from its use."

Parks relates the case of a lady who had chloroform in her third labor. "She, after delivery, complained of violent pain in the head, became

delirious, tore the nurse's gown and the bedclothes into pieces, and was perfectly maniacal."

Mr. Banner thus speaks:—"A patient became delirious, and continued so during the day and greater part of the night, after its use."

Haartman "saw a case of headache terminating in paralysis, caused by this drug."

In one of Dubois' published cases, numbness of the fingers, and in another the same condition of the legs, supervened, and had not subsided at the end of twenty-four hours.

In Denham's report I find one case of coma after chloroform inhalation.

Dr. R. Lee says "that insanity has followed on its employment; that dangerous and fatal peritonitis and phlebitis have been caused by its inhalation."

Two or three of Denham's cases were seized with rigors; and Lee mentions others with dangerous fits of syncope; and in this he is borne out by the following, which I find recorded amongst Denham's cases:—"While inhaling, the pulse became very weak, and she gave no signs of consciousness; and immediately on the birth of the child the respiration of the patient ceased, and the pulse became imperceptible: the application of cold water to the face soon revived her, and she went on favorably for some days; but diarrhoea, with extensive inflammation of the mucous membrane of the ileum set in, and she died on the fourteenth day."

Sinclair and Johnston record nearly a similar case, as thus:—"The pulse suddenly became imperceptible, and respiration appeared to have ceased. She subsequently died of phlebitis." And they give another in which collapse occurred, and she also died with symptoms of phlebitis.

Dr. Barnes stated—"That he had himself given chloroform to facilitate the extraction of an adherent placenta, and had witnessed such exceeding prostration for eight hours afterwards, as to make him, and another practitioner who assisted him, apprehensive of the instant death of the patient."

Many are of opinion that the inhalation of chloroform predisposes to laceration of the perineum; indeed, some of the published cases would tend to favor this idea. In Sinclair and Johnston's report we find that, in the recorded cases, it occurred once in 27 cases; and when not employed, the accident happened only once in 93 cases. In the same work we find three cases of chest affection aggravated by this means, two of which succumbed.

Dr. Ringland in reply to a letter from me, writes. "I have seen chloroform frequently used in puerperal convulsions, and have used it myself in connection with the practice of the Coombe Lying-in Hospital; and the conclusion I have come to is, that I will never again use it, or sanction its use, in puerperal convulsions. I have observed that, however satisfactory its employment may appear at the time, it has been almost invariably followed by bronchitis within about 48 hours, and that the patients have sunk rapidly under the latter affection. I have seen this so frequently that I cannot but look on chloroform and bronchitis, under the circumstances I have named, as cause and effect; and the mortality from the subsequent bronchitis, as the actual result of the employment of chloroform."

Ramsbotham relates the case of "a lady who was seized with dyspnoea, with excessive lividity of