

that kind that are historical. There is a case recorded by Simpson. An appointment was made in the Royal Infirmary to perform an amputation, but owing to Mr. Simpson's enforced absence the anæsthetic was not used and the patient died before the operation commenced. I had in my own experience a similar case. I was asked by a brother doctor to see a patient with an abdominal tumour. I went to her house with the doctor and found a very fine, healthy, vigorous Scotch lady, who had come a little distance by rail for the purpose of having an examination made. She lay down on the sofa and the examination did not take nearly as long as it has taken me to tell it, because it was exceedingly simple, involving no vaginal examination, no anæsthetics or instruments. I simply passed my hands over the abdominal walls. I said: "You have a favorable case for operation and your best plan is to go home and make arrangements to have the operation done." The doctor said: "I have never done such an operation and I wish you would stand by me and see me through it." About an hour afterwards the doctor came and said: "I have changed my mind—it is a serious case and I will let you operate." I said: "I do not think it." He said: "Doctor, she is dead." He said we had not come a block from the house when she turned over on the sofa and died. Unfortunately no post-mortem examination could be had, and we do not know even now the cause. I mention these cases to impress the fact, as I have had occasion to do in court and elsewhere, that patients die suddenly who do not have any chloroform, and because they sometimes happen to die on the table under chloroform it is not fair or just to say that it is always caused by the chloroform. I had occasion to write to the daily papers on account of excitement on that subject over a death that occurred in Detroit and which led to some threats being uttered. I contributed a brief article to the papers pointing out these facts and stating, with all reverence, that the patients die by the visitation of God. We cannot tell whether it is the chloroform or not. Once more, there is a class of cases in which I think chloroform or any anæsthetic is dangerous, and that is operations about the rectum, ligaturing or cutting off hæmorrhoids. Often it is dangerous in an operation for fistula. There seems to be some direct relation, perhaps,