

any circumstances begin operating until the patient is thoroughly anæsthetized. The importance of this was pointed out to me by one of our leading Montreal dentists. He insisted that in all the cases of death from chloroform in dentists' chairs, that he had been able to investigate, the chloroformist had only partially anæsthetized the patient. Just given enough to *deaden the pain a little*.

Now in the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*, April, 1887, p. 444, is an article from Professor H. P. Bowditch of Harvard University, entitled *The Action of Sulphuric Ether on the Peripheral Nervous System*. In this article it is experimentally proved, that irritation of the recurrent laryngeal nerve in dogs *partially* under the influence of ether, produces constriction of the glottis, but irritation of the same nerve when the dog is completely anæsthetized causes dilatation of the glottis.

The observations of Perkins were also in the main confirmed, *i.e.* "there was found to be a stage in the paralyzing action of the drug when stimulation of the nerve caused the leg to assume a position contrary to that occasioned by the same degree of stimulation without ether."

Here is experimental proof of a fact, and that a fact of vital importance to all using anæsthetics, which had already been observed by a practical man, *viz.*: *Never begin operating until the patient is completely anæsthetized.*

DIET IN SKIN DISEASES.

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Within the last decade, diet, in reference to the etiology and treatment of disease, has become an element of considerable weight. So much so, that the scale of medical opinion has shot far up in the high numbers. And well it might. Food is a great factor in health and disease. It has made and unmade nations. Witness the decline and fall of the Roman Empire through gourmandizing; and one small article, tea, which although it cannot be strictly classed as a food, is seldom left out in a lady's grocery list, has been the means of founding the greatest republic of modern times. While food has been a power in making and breaking civil constitutions, it has been equally powerful in making and breaking corporeal constitutions. A good dinner is a potential factor in the wise statesman's, the wily politician's, and the shrewd business man's repertoire. In fact, it might almost be said that a country is ruled "over the wal-

nuts and wine." And why? Because from time immemorial humanity has been partial to its palate. One would think that the gustatory and glosso-pharyngeal nerves would be well nigh degenerated, so often are they stimulated by savory morsels. In patriarchal days, they used to kill the fatted calf and make merry, and the principle has been carried out through successive ages to the present day, culminating in the modern "ginner party," the prototype of the fatted calf of yore. Cooking has become a fine art, and such perfection has it reached, so tempting, so luscious, are the delicacies it produces, that it is enough to make Epicurus turn in his grave. No wonder the patient frequently uses a big, big D. at the doctor, and goes ahead, regardless of all dietetic rules. Food is the fuel which replenishes the furnace of our body, which sets the locomotive going along the multifarious routes of Life's Railroad; unhappily, it often sets the locomotive off the track. Tyndall says, "the growth of knowledge is from vagueness to precision." No doubt ere long we shall reach precision in dietetics. But there are still many knotty points to be solved, many wrangling facts, and the scientific mind ever hungering, like Oliver Twist, asks for more—knowledge. The energy which food develops in forming a muscle, a healthy brain, etc., expends itself equally in deranging or disorganizing a stomach, liver or kidney. As there is no portion of the body but what may feel its beneficial influence so there is no part which may not be visited by its dire effects. But, verily, as one enters a restaurant, casts the eye over the inviting bill of fare, observes the coaxing dishes, smells the saliva exciting odors, it is sad to think, that, commingling with the jovial conversation and good natured smiles of the bon vivants, is the harassing thought, as we trace the food from the first digestive process prehension, to the final act of defecation, with all the intervening tions, what evil may it do, are we sowing the seeds of a dyspepsia, or is there perhaps looming in the distance a Bright's disease, skin disease, etc.? The waiter breaks the reverie, and decides it "Next order, Sir."

Food is potent for fair or ill in skin diseases no less than in other affections. Let us first look at the bright side, that we may be the better able to bear the more shady.

A well regulated diet is a strong item in the treatment of a skin disease. This most will allow. While all in general are in accord as to the value