HYDROBROMIC ETHER.

Hydrobromic Ether, the new anæsthetic, has been made the subject of careful study by Dr. R. J. Levis, and the results of his observations have been published in the *Philadelphia Medical Times*, January 17, 1880. The agent is a colorless liquid, of peculiar odor, intermediate between chloroform and ether in density and volatility, and its vapor is neither inflammable nor irritating to the air passages. Anæsthesia is usually induced in two or three minutes, and recovery of consciousness is of equal rapidity. The mode of administration is by inhalation from a covered napkin, and the quantity required varies with the necessities of the case between one drachm and eleven drachms. The preliminary muscular excitement is moderate and transitory, and is attended with slight acceleration of pulse and slight increase in vascular tension. Respiration is not affected beyond the characteristics of ordinary ether narcosis. Nausea and vomiting do not occur often. The pupils dilate when complete anæsthesia is induced, and resume their normal dimensions upon the return of consciousness. They may be taken as the guide. Ordinary caution should be observed in using the agent, although Dr. Levis has never discovered any tendency to the production of syncope.—*Chicago Medical Gazette.*

BENZOATE OF SODA IN ULCERATIONS.

In scrofulous and syphilitic ulcerations Schuller and Berkart have derived decided benefit from the internal use of benzoate of soda (*Medical Press and Circular*, December, 1879.) The latter recommends it in the following formula:

℞.	Sodii benzoatis,	ʒ ss
	Tr. cardam. comp.,	ʒ ss
	Aq. menth. pip., ad	ʒ j. M.

For one dose, to be taken twice daily.

The latter thinks it is valuable in many forms of constitutional syphilis.

POP-CORN IN THE NAUSEA OF PREGNANCY.

Dr. F. A. Burrall, of this city, writes: "One of the best remedies for the nausea which attends the parturient state is the quickly roasted grain of the *Zea mays*, or Indian corn. It is too familiarly known as 'pop-corn' to require any description. Many physicians are not aware of the beneficial results which may be derived from the use of this simple agent. It should be white and light, and may be eaten freely, sprinkled with salt. I think it is no exaggeration to say that it will be found of the greatest service in many cases where the products of the chemist's art have proved unavailing."—*Medical Record.*

THE VALUE OF THE DEPENDENT POSITION OF THE HEAD IN OPERATIONS ON THE MOUTH AND THROAT.

Professor Thomas Annandale, of Edinburgh, in the *Lancet* of Nov. 8th, 1879, states that eighteen months ago, when removing the greater part of the lower jaw, including its symphysis, he tried the plan of allowing the patient's head to fall over the edge of the table. Although the tongue immediately fell back toward the posterior wall of the pharynx after the attachments of the tongue to the jaw had been freely divided, the man's breathing was perfectly easy —much more so than when the head was raised or lay level with the trunk. Before the patient left the theatre, he demonstrated this fact several times to the students present, and thoroughly convinced them and himself of its correctness.

The experience of this case led him to place the head in the same position in his next operation on the throat (thyrotomy); and since then he has performed many operations in this way on the mouth and throat with complete success, and with great facility as regards the prevention of blood passing into the air passages, the obtaining a good view of the parts, and the carrying out of the necessary manipulations.

Among the operations in which he has used this method, have been a second case of thyrotomy, two cases of tumor of the palate, one case of large epulis, and three cases of cleft palate. In all these operations he has been impressed with the advantages of this position of the head. Complete anæsthesia, by means of chloroform, or a mixture of chloroform and ether, has been kept up without any inconvenience during the whole proceedings.

His present method of keeping the head in this position is to have it hanging over the end of the table and supported there by the hands of an assistant; but he is having a little addition made to his operating table, which will allow the head to be supported in this position more efficiently.

DIGITALIS HYPODERMICALLY IN FLAGGING HEART.

In a recent clinical lecture Professor Da Costa called attention to the use of digitalis hypodermically for the purpose of sustaining a flagging heart. Two drops of the fluid extract are equivalent in strength to fifteen minims of the tincture. This amount (gtt. ii). well diluted with water, is what he generally uses, and he has always found that it answers all the purposes of hypodermic medication excellently. This dose can, of course, be repeated as often as necessary.