ple or the troops. On getting rid of the troops, which we did at Bermuda, my attention was of course specially directed to every means whereby the contagion could be destroyed. Cleanliness and ventilation were duly attended to, and every part of the ship where the sick had been, after being cleaned and aired, was sponged well over with the solution of chloride of zinc several times. Than the result, nothing could be better; the disease totally ceased, no fresh case occurring after. On our passage from Halifax, with the sixtieth regiment on board, the weather was so bad, and the ship working so much, that it was quite impossible to open any of the lower-deck ports, on which deck the whole of the people lived, troops as well as our own people, for eight days; the air throughout the deck was exceedingly vitiated with every mixture of noxious smell, but the free use of the chloride of zinc tended, in a most surprising manner, to do away with the bad smell; so much so, that the surgeon of the regiment came to me to get some to use in the part of the ship where the ladies of the officers were. The effect of the chloride of zinc is most obvious in correcting all bad and offensive effluvia; and from the sudden and surprising manner in which the measles disappeared after its use, it is not, I think, too much to say, that it must have been very instrumental in decomposing the miasm, or state of atmosphere in the ship, which tended to the generation of the disease."

From all these statements, then, it is clear that the solution of the chloride of zinc is a powerful agent in neutralizing noxious gases, and in arresting the progress of decomposition. Sir W. Burnett has therefore rendered, by its discovery, a great benefit to suffering humanity. On board ship, its influence in removing the offensive odors from bilge-water can hardly be too highly estimated, while its action in sweetening the wards of hospitals, and destroying noxious and infectious effluvia, seems to be equally evident.

INHALATION OF ETHER IN LABOR.

By Jonathan Clark, M.D.

Mrs. N., of Blockley, aged 26, was taken unwell on the afternoon of Saturday, the 14th of September. She complained of great weakness, vertigo, sickness of stomach, and pains in the back and limbs. The bowels were disturbed several times during the afternoon and evening; the evacuations were black and very fetid. The matter ejected from the stomach, as she vomited repeatedly, was also of a bilious character. Her constitution had been very much impaired three years since, by an attack of autumnal fever, from the effects of which she has not yet recovered.

During this her first pregnancy, she has suffered much from indigestion, a train of nervous symptoms of a distressing character, together with general *œdema*.

At 8 o'clock in the morning, after a restless night, of which she has no recollection, she was seized with convulsions, which continued to

recur; the interval between the convulsions decreasing, while the violence and duration of the paroxysms increased. At 10 o'clock, when I saw her, she had had six convulsions.

Her perceptive faculties were altogether obliterated. As each paroxysm subsided, she was observed to recover her faculties less perfectly, till they were wholly lost, with the exception, perhaps, of the ability to feel pain, which appeared to be regained simultaneously with the power of the uterus to contract; a slight contraction of which served only to usher in another paroxysm. An examination showed that but little progress had been made in the labor; the os uteri was dilated to the extent of an inch and a half, the membranes were entire, and the head was presenting. Her pulse was 110 in the minute. As she had complained of headache before the convulsions came on, and as the pulse appeared of a character to bear it, I took sixteen ounces of blood from the arm.

This had no favorable effect. On the contrary, the spasms continued to increase in force and frequency. The pulse rose to 135 in a minute, becoming much weaker. The extremities became cold, notwithstanding the application of sinapisms, and the surface was generally cold and clammy, and of a livid hue. Under these circumstances, it occurred to me that the vapor of ether might act as a stimulant, and also change the disordered action then existing. By administering the vapor, a worse state of things could not be induced than already existed, for it was evident to me, from the untoward progress the case had made, that a few more convulsions would destroy her.

All hope of a favorable result was lost, inasmuch as the labor made no perceptible progress. The lethargy succeeding a paroxysm of convulsions was accompanied by a want of contractile power in the uterus, and as soon as this was in a measure regained, and the uterus began to contract, another paroxysm would occur, preventing the further progress of the labor.

Under these circumstances, I thought that if I could substitute the lethargy from the inhalation of ether, for the existing one, there would be a great point gained; *the one putting an entire stop to the labor, the other having no such effect.*

During the interval between each paroxysm, I had examined the state of the os uteri, hoping to find it dilated sufficiently to enable me to introduce my hand for the purpose of turning, but this was not the case, as there was very little dilatation. In a few minutes after the ninth paroxysm had passed off, I applied a sponge, well moistened with ether, over the mouth and nostrils. The patient soon began to rub her nose violently, pushing away the sponge as soon as it was re-applied, till she was prevented by holding her hands. Her countenance in a minute or two lost its deathly hue, and resumed a more natural appearance. In less than ten minutes the whole surface became warm, and much more natural.

The pulse fell to 125; the interval between the paroxysms increased more than one half, and their duration, when they did occur, was much lessened. Uterine contractions now ceased to have their former effect of bringing on the convulsions, *so that I could observe several distinct*

and efficient pains or contractions between the paroxysms. The os uteri, as a consequence, began to dilate, but not as yet sufficiently to admit of the introduction of the hand.

I did not venture to apply the sponge long enough to produce a complete lethargy, but removed it when her opposition to its application in a measure ceased. I was fearful, if a complete state of lethargy was induced in her then low condition, she might not re-act. After being three hours and half under the influence of the ether, the uterus was sufficiently dilatable to admit of the gradual introduction of the hand, the membranes which were still entire, were ruptured, and I succeeded in obtaining one foot, which was brought down and secured with a tape. Owing to the ungovernable restlessness of my patient, and to the powerful contractions of the uterus, I had great difficulty in finding the other; and when I had succeeded in getting it partly down, it offered so much resistance to my efforts, that I was apprehensive it might not be a fellow to the one I had. After comparing the direction of the toes, I ventured to exert a little more force, and brought away the child.

It was still living, though much exhausted; the lungs required inflation before it breathed, but after respiration was once established it did very well. The placenta came away promptly, and there was no flooding.

No vapor was given after the child was delivered. The mother still continued in a stupor, with convulsions at intervals of forty-five minutes, till 4 o'clock next morning, when they ceased. She took, during the night, as an antispasmodic, forty drops of tr. assafoetida in milk, at intervals of two hours. In the evening her pulse was 128, and quite feeble. I should mention that the convulsions had diminished in force, and continued to do so till they ceased.

At 8 in the morning, the stupor still continuing, she took ten grains of calomel, and in one hour a teaspoonful of fluid extract of senna, which was repeated every hour for four hours, when it operated on the bowels, producing copious black and very fetid evacuations. From this time she recovered rapidly; the day following she noticed some things and answered questions. Her tongue had been sadly bitten; she could not account for its soreness; has no recollection of anything that has occurred, and thinks it strange that her child could have been born without her knowledge. In two weeks she was about her room, having convalesced rapidly without an unpleasant symptom. The child, a fine boy, is doing well.—*Philadelphia Medical Examiner.*

OVARIAN TUMOR.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—Having for a short time past attended upon a surgical case which to me has been very interesting (and probably will be to most of the numerous readers of your valuable Journal), I send you a history for insertion, hoping you will pardon me for troubling you with it.

Mrs. Colins, of this town, aged 35, had, for three years previous to