complete coitus, but, as events proved, not enough to prevent impregnation; one of those facts, by the way, which overturn entirely the theories of those who argue that fruitful congress can only occur by the apposition of the orifice of the urethra to the os uteri at the moment of sexual orgasm, in which it is contended that the female must also of necessity participate. Such cases show conclusively that it is not necessary to suppose any *power of suction* in the uterus at that moment to introduce the spermatozoa within its cavity, and that their power of rapid movement is not altogether a superfluous endowment. The patient has had a second child since, and it was found at the time of labor that the occlusion had not been reproduced. A.

TABULAR STATEMENT OF DEATHS ATTRIBUTED TO THE EFFECTS
OF INHALED CHLOROFORM.

BY C. T. JACKSON, M.D.

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CHLOROFORM was discovered in 1831 by Dr. Soubéiran, and by Liebig and Dumas in 1832. It was first proposed as a substitute for ether, by Mr. Waldie, at the request of Dr. Simpson, of Edinburgh, in the month of December, 1847. Meanwhile etherization had been adopted by all civilized nations, from Europe to China, and was most extensively employed in surgery, and with great success.

Chloroform superseded ether, chiefly in some of the larger cities of Europe, and had not been used long before the world was alarmed by reports of numerous cases of deaths resulting from the inhalation of this powerful agent.

In 1850, Dr. E. F. Bouisson, of Montpellier, published the following table of deaths produced by inhalation of chloroform, showing the dangerous character of that "substitute for ether." These tables are sufficiently full to make the matter quite clear, and further comment is unnecessary.

We add, also, a table of the deaths following the employment of this anæsthetic agent in this country. It is not probable that it represents half the actual number that have occurred, our means of collecting such statistics being so imperfect in this country.

Since our committee, now having in charge the collecting of the statistics of etherization, to ascertain whether or no there have been any cases of death from the effects of ether, is still engaged in its labors, I shall abstain for the present from any remarks on that subject, and await the presentation of the report to the Boston Society for Medical Improvement. In the mean while, I shall continue my physiological and chemical investigations on the effects of ether on the human organism.

TABLE of Deaths attributed to the influence of Chloroform. Translated from "*Traité de la Méthode Anæsthétique*," of E. F. BOUISSON, Paris, 1850 (p. 397-8), by C. T. JACKSON, M.D.

	Facts, Name of Surgeon, &c.	Name and Condition of Patient.	Duration of Chloroformization and nature of Operation.	Epoch and Character of Death.
1	M. Meggison, 1848.	Hannah Greener, age 15 yrs., great dread of inhalation of Chloroform.	Chloroform inhaled fr. handkerchief. Insensibility in half a minute, removal of a nail begun.	Immediate death in spite of all remedies given.
2	M. Pearson, 1848.	Mrs. Simmond, age 35 years, good health, tho' nervous; copious repast.	Chloroformization for some instants, after wh. some roots of teeth were extracted.	Death two minutes after commencement of inhalation.
3	A surgeon of Hyderabad, 1848.	A young woman having a lesion of left medius.	Inhalation of one drch. Chloroform from a handkerchief. Commenced amputation of the finger.	Immediate death.
4	Robinson, Dentist, 1848.	Walter Badger, age 23 years, had disease of heart and hypertrophia of liver.	Chloroformization from apparatus one minute. Operator absent $\frac{1}{2}$ min. to get bottle of chlorof.	Died during absence of the operator, who attempted in vain, by various remedies, to resuscitate the patient.
5	M. Gorré, of Bologne sur Mer, 1848.	Mad'le Stock, age 30 years, having been subject to palpitation and duce grave symptoms, chlorosis. Abscess following superficial wound on thigh.	Inhalation of Chloroform less than one min. This time sufficed to project to palpitation and duce grave symptoms, during which the purulent sac of the thigh was opened.	Immediate death.
6	M. Robert, 1848.	Daniel Schlyg, age 24 years. Thigh broken by a ball in the days of June; profound depression, physical and moral.	Inhalation of Chloroform during 3 or 4 min. Disarticulation coxo-femoral; new inhalation of Chloroform.	Death during the operation.
7	M. Malgaigne, 1848.	Wounded in June, having the neck of the humerus broken by a ball; weakened by hæmorrhage, gangr. of wound.	Chloroformization; disarticulation scapulo-humeral; new inhalation while searching for the ball.	Death during last incisions.
8	Hotel Dieu of Lyon, 1848.	Charles Desnoyers, 22 years of age. Scrofulous, had white swellings of left hand.	Chloroformization with apparatus during five m. Cauterization of joint.	Death on commencement of operation.
9	Boux, in the Hotel Dieu of Paris, 1848.	Woman with scirrhus breast.	Chloroformization; amputation of the breast.	Death before leaving the operating room.
10	Reported by M. J. Guérin, Bicêtre, Sept. 1848.	Man with lesion of thigh.	Chloroformization; disarticulation coxo-femoral.	Death before end of operation.
11	M. Gordon Buck, New York, 1848.	Man weakened, having lesion of the heart, as proved by autopsy.	Chloroformization; excision of hæmorrhoids.	Sudden death just as operation was about to commence.
12	Case of Govan, London Lancet, 1849.	Young person.	Chloroformization; removal of in-grown nail.	Immediate death.
13	M. Barrier, Lyon, 1849.	A glazier, 17 yrs. of age, scrofulous.	Inhalation of 6 to 8 grammes of Chloroform for six minutes, for amputation of a finger.	Convulsions, followed by death in half a minute.
14	Case in Hospital of Madrid, 1849.	Child 12 years of age.	Chloroform employed before amputation of leg.	Death during the operation, with violent tetanus.
15	M. Conferron or Langres, 1849.	Mad. Labrune, age 33 years, of nervous temperament.	Submitted a year before with success to inhalation of Ether. Submitted to Chloroform for extraction of a tooth.	Death as from a thunder-bolt—"mort foudroyante."

A few cases of Death which took place during or immediately after the inhalation of Chloroform, in the United States. Compiled by CHARLES T. JACKSON, M.D., Boston, March, 1861.

	Authority.	Name of Patient.	Nature of Anæsthetic Agent and Operation.	Death, &c.
1	Coroner's Inquest. Dr. Charles H. Stedman, Med. Coroner. Autopsy by Dr. F. S. Ainsworth, Dr. C. H. Stedman and Dr. C. T. Jackson, Feb. 1855.	Phebe Ann Morgan, of Boston, a stout, healthy young woman. Case reported in <i>Bost. Med. and Surg. Journal</i> , by C. T. Jackson, M.D.	Chloroform inhaled preparatory to extraction of a tooth. Operation not performed.	Died in a few minutes before operation was begun. Stimulants and insufflation of lungs tried for resuscitation, without avail. Much chlorine and formic acid found in blood of heart, by chemical analysis.
2	Dr. Severance, Dentist, Salmon Falls, N. H.	Miss Packard, a healthy girl from Maine.	Chloroform inhaled preparatory to extraction of a tooth—the inhalation conducted by herself during the temporary absence of the dentist, and without his knowledge.	Found dead on return of the dentist, after a few minutes absence from the room.
3	Pawtucket Gazette.	Young girl, daughter of James C. Aldrich, of Pawtucket.	Chloroform inhaled by smelling of chloroform liniment, much of which was spilled in the bed near her face.	Died in half an hour. Stimulants tried for the purpose of reviving her, without avail.
4	Boston Traveller of April 8th, 1854.	Henry N. Dean, aged 21.	Chloroform inhaled for pleasure. Had often taken it for this purpose.	Died suddenly, in evening after the inhalation.
5	Boston Papers, June 4th, 1853.	Ebeneser B. Jones, a young man in good health.	Took an ounce and a half of Chloroform in water, as a remedy for seasickness while on a fishing party in the bay of Boston.	Complete stupor, followed by violent convulsions and death in an hour; remedies found of no avail.
6	Dr. Alden March, of Albany, N. Y. <i>Trans. State Med. Soc. of N. Y.</i> , 1855, p. 169.	Miss Sarah Weaver, of Schoharie, N. Y., aged 18 years; in feeble state of health, from long disease. Operation done at the Albany N. Y. Hosp.	Large tumor in neck, involving carotid artery and jugular vein. Ether given first, then chloroform, and a very grave surgical operation was performed on her.	Sunk and died in two hours. Consulting surgeons attribute the death to loss of blood and nervous exhaustion. Probably chloroform hastened the death.
7	Dr. Davis, dentist, of Lynn, Ms.	Mary Farley, an adult married woman.	Chloroform and ether inhaled preparatory to extraction of a tooth.	Died in seven or eight minutes. Galvanism and other means employed to revive her, without effect.
8	Man in U. S. Marine Hospital, Chelsea. Dr. W. Ingalls.	Name not known to me.	Alcoholic solution of Chloroform, sometimes called strong chloric ether.	Sudden death before operation.
9	Man in Mass. General Hospital, Boston. Dr. J. C. Warren.	Name not now remembered by me.	Chloroform given by mistake for alcoholic solution of chloroform, inhaled from a sponge, preparatory to operation.	Immediate death in spite of free use of ammonia and other stimulants.

No. 6 is the only doubtful case in this collection. However, it is probable that the tendency to collapse and fatal result was partly due to the action of chloroform. Still, from its nature, the case might have terminated fatally, even if chloroform had not been administered.

C. T. JACKSON.