chorea, and I feel gratified that it should have proved advantageous. In the latter part of the communication, however, Mr. Harris seems to doubt the power of administering nourishment, or rather receiving it, while under the influence of chloroform. This idea is not correct. The power of swallowing may occasionally be lost, but by no means generally. I have frequently taken and administered fluids and solid food while under its influence.

"I perceive, also, in last week's LANCET, Mr. V. Jones suggests that it is impracticable to administer chloroform and ether in conjunction. I would suggest to Mr. Jones the propriety of trying it; he will find that the process is very simple, and very easily carried out. I have employed the two in conjunction many times, mixing them in a bottle, and then pouring the contents on a handkerchief. I have not, however, found much additional advantage from this mode of proceeding."

Chloroform advantageously employed in a Lingering Labour.

By MICHAEL HEALY, M.D., F.R.C.S., Ennis, Ireland.

ON the 20th of February last I was called to see a lady, about twenty-three or twenty-four years of age, whose accouchement I had been engaged to attend. I saw her at about eleven A.M., after she had been suffering a good deal of pain during the whole of the previous night. It was her first pregnancy. She was stout, healthy, and plethoric. I made an examination per vaginam, and found the os uteri had not yet begun to dilate. I saw my patient several times in the course of the day, and found that labour was advancing slowly but steadily; the pains were very sharp; the intervals between them short. At eleven P.M. the os had become dilated to the extent of a half-crown piece, and the membranes could be felt through it. At five in the morning I received a note, stating that the time which had passed since I had last been with Mrs. — was spent by her in the greatest torture; that she had not had one instant of freedom from pain; and that it was feared I should be obliged to deliver her instrumentally. On receipt of this note I visited my patient, and found her in very active labour; the pains very violent and almost continuous. The os had now become quite dilated, and the wedge-like membranes could be felt through it. The labour went on during the whole of the day, the bag slowly protruding through the os, which it did not completely clear till about five in the evening; and I think, with one exception, (also a primipara,) this was the most severe labour I had met with in a practice of several years. The screams of the patient were frightful, and the united efforts of the midwife, her maid, her husband, and myself, were called for to keep her quiet during the pains.

In most respects, indeed, things promised well; the head had now begun to press upon the soft parts; but notwithstanding the intensity of the labour, its progress was very slow. The husband of the lady, Dr. —, now proposed to place her under the influence of chloroform. I objected, saying that I had never seen it used; that from the history of the two fatal cases which had occurred in England I was very unwilling to have recourse to it; that the sufferings of Mrs. — were only what were every day met with in midwifery practice, and that I felt perfectly confident the case would soon terminate well; that I feared chloroform would have the effect of retarding her labour, and thus would very much increase her sufferings.

Dr. —, however, importuned me so much to allow the anæsthetic agent to be used, that I at length, though reluctantly, consented. The patient inhaled it in the usual way, from a thin gauze handkerchief, and in a minute was completely under its influence; she lay as if in a placid sleep. I felt the pulse at the wrist, and found it beating with precisely the same force and regularity as before the chloroform was used. In about another minute a pain came on, and the only indication she gave of it was a slight moan. On examining per vaginam I found that this pain was the strongest, the most lasting, and the most expulsive she had had for an hour; in fact, it nearly expelled the child, and yet, whilst it lasted, she lay perfectly quiet. She was kept under this influence till delivery took place, probably half an hour from the first inhalation. The uterus contracted firmly, and expelled the placenta; in a few minutes after the child was born, and everything went on most favourably.

I have thus given the particulars of the only case in which I have seen chloroform used, and I have no hesitation in saying that, so far as the very limited experience of one case enables me to judge of it, I am inclined to look on it as a very valuable agent in midwifery. I should not be disposed

to use it in ordinary cases; but where the suffering is very intense, as in the present instance, I would most certainly place the patient under its influence. It did not appear to me, in Mrs. —'s case, to exert the slightest influence on the uterine contractions; they were quite as powerful whilst the system was completely under its influence as before it was used.

On the Employment of Ether and Chloroform in Conjunction.

By JOHN GABB, Esq., M.R.C.S. &c., Bewdley.

IT becomes me to explain to Mr. Vaughan Jones, and your readers who take it for granted that his theory renders their combined administration impossible, that I have administered them to an animal together, and I believe that I perceived the effect which I anticipated, but have not made any experiments with a view to their publication, having hoped that the suggestion would have been examined before now by a more able, and perhaps less partial observer than myself. Mr. Vaughan Jones suggests the impracticability of the administration of the agents together, on account of the difference in their specific gravity; but I beg to say that washed ether and pure chloroform mix readily, and in equal parts form a mixture of the mean specific gravity of the two. Whether they form a chemical combination or not is another question; but as they evaporate together, and in accordance to the law of the diffusion of gases and vapours, I can perceive nothing to prevent their being inhaled together from a sponge with the same facility as either alone—indeed, the fact that they can be proves the correctness of the theory. I would only add, in conclusion, that the want of an ether-and-chloroform inhaling apparatus (to admit the two vapours into the mouth separately, I suppose) can be no obstacle to the advantage which I still expect to be derived from the combined administration of the two agents.

On the Reduction of a Strangulated Hernia by the Influence of Chloroform.

By WILLIAM AINLEY, Esq., M.R.C.S. &c., Bingley.

HANNAH W—, aged forty-four, a delicate woman, the mother of ten children, and subject to hernia for ten years, had been several times on the verge of an operation. She was found at noon, on the 7th of May last, with symptoms of strangulated inguinal hernia of the right side, which had existed for some hours. The usual remedies were applied and persevered in, but without benefit, (except that the vomiting was arrested by six grains of opium, which she took in an hour and a half.) The taxis was employed as long as was considered prudent, when forty or fifty drops of chloroform were held to her mouth on a handkerchief. Having breathed half-a-dozen times through this, she exclaimed that the pain was leaving her. On resuming the taxis, the fingers had scarcely touched the tumour, before it shrank and disappeared, to the great pleasure of the surgeon as well as the patient. On the following day she was found going on very favourably, and very grateful for the sudden relief she had experienced. Mr. Ainley remarks that this case differs from that recorded by Mr. Lafargue, at p. 210 of the present volume, in the patient not having lost consciousness.

Rebels.

A Disquisition on Pestilential Cholera; being an Attempt to explain its Phenomena, Nature, Cause, Prevention, and Treatment, by Reference to an Extrinsic Fungous Origin. By CHARLES COWDELL, M.B., M.R.C.S. London: Highley. Oundle, Northamptonshire: Todd. 1848. 8vo, pp. 210.

THE ancient fabulist narrates the history of a false impression producing beneficial results. A dying parent let his offspring believe that in a certain field he had hidden a treasure. The sons sought for the gold in vain, but they so thoroughly turned the soil that an abundant harvest was the reward of their labours. The tale does not want analogies in our present century. Many will labour hard in breaking up the stubborn glebe for the glittering treasures of theory, but few will venture the same amount of toil for the legitimate riches which require the circling seasons to mature them—the sober results of patient exertion. They will ransack every record, whether of individual experience or of collected facts, for supports to their darling ideas. They fail, it is true, in the end at which