the voice became whispering, and the patient could not speak loud till after the 14th, when she was well enough to go to Rye Beach. During all this time the patient was up and dressed. She took brandy, beef tea, cocoa, milk, ice cream, and other nourishment, freely. The medical treatment consisted in the application of strong hydrochloric acid to all the parts which were covered with the exudation, and the sound parts in their immediate neighborhood, ice externally to the throat, in a long India-rubber bag, and quinine internally. When she left town, the tincture of chloride of iron was substituted for the quinine.

The urine, examined July 5th, contained no albumen. On the 13th it contained a trace of albumen, and crystals of triple phosphate. The albumen increased in quantity till towards the middle of August, when it disappeared.

At about the middle of July the voice (previously whispering) became nasal. This peculiarity increased, indicating some paralysis of the palate, and the voice was not fully restored until Sept. 1st. About the first of August the patient began to feel much weariness in the legs, so that she could only walk a short distance, and she would stumble and fall unaccountably. These symptoms continued till she returned to town, Sept. 15th. Even now the gait is a little awkward, although the general health is excellent.

I omitted to mention that this patient had epistaxis freely, July 5th, and slightly, July 12th.

CHLORAL IN OBSTETRICAL PRACTICE.

By S. G. WEBBER, M.D., Boston.

THE following abstract adds to the clinical experience with chloral which is so rapidly accumulating, and which will soon enable physicians to give that drug its proper place in the *materia medica*. The cases recorded by the author* only partially support the twenty-third conclusion of Dr. Brichteau, as given on page 391 of the last volume of this JOURNAL.

E. K., 26 years old, maidservant, pregnant with her first child, came to the lying-in hospital on Oct. 6. She was of healthy family, and had enjoyed good health, had menstruated from her eighteenth year ir-

regularly, but without pain. Her catamenia ceased in March.

She was received and employed about the hospital until Nov. 14, when her face was noticed to be bloated. She stated that on the 10th there had been a remarkable increase in the size of her abdomen, her digestion had been sluggish and the secretion of urine diminished. There was anasarca of the labia and of the legs; the skin was dry; temperature not increased; a slight, dry cough; urine contained albumen and casts. A warm bed, infus. rad. ipecac. and liq. ammon. acet. were prescribed.

Nov. 16.—At 7 o'clock, P.M., fell asleep quietly. At 8, P.M., the attendant noticed spasmodic distortion of the head to the left, with entire loss of consciousness with purple countenance; she foamed at the mouth, and soon the arms and legs were attacked with convulsions. This attack lasted about three minutes, and she then lay in a deep sopor, with snoring respiration, until after fourteen minutes the second attack occurred with the same phenomena. This attack was cut short by chloroform inhalation. She lay narcotized until 9.45, P.M., when she awoke rational and answered questions intelligently, but without any recollection of the attack. A third attack occurred at five minutes before 10, and a fourth at ten minutes after 11 o'clock. Both were cut short by chloroform inhalation. Between both these attacks and after the last the patient lay unconscious, snoring and rattling in the throat.

Nov. 17.—At midnight, a clyster composed of half the following mixture was given:—Half a cup of starch, with two grammes of chloral hydrate dissolved in thirty grammes of decoction of althæa; and at 1 o'clock the other half was given. Both were retained. Towards 2 o'clock the patient fell into a deep sleep, which continued almost without interruption until afternoon. At 8 o'clock, A.M., the respiration was still snoring and rattling. After awaking she lay quiet, without coming entirely to herself, about two hours, and then went to sleep again, breathing freely.

Nov. 18.—Morning. Slept almost continuously; only awaked by repeated vomiting. Afternoon awoke, took half a teller of broth, and lay quiet, with almost perfect consciousness. The skin was dry; temperature not increased. No stool; no passage of urine. In the evening, pulse 96; temp. 37.9. Tartar emetic (0.18) 180.0, every two hours a tablespoonful.

* Aus der geburtshilflichen Universitäts-Klinik zu Berlin, unter Leitung des Geh. Medicinal-Raths Martin. Anwendung des Chloralhydrats per anum.—[Berliner Klinische Wochenschr., Jan. 3, 1870, p. 1.]

Nov. 19.—Pulse 100; temp. 37·8. After the first spoonful of the emetic solution, she vomited and had one thin stool; then slept well, and, after awaking, took her breakfast with appetite. Urine contained albumen and many casts.

The tartar emetic was continued till Nov. 21; on Nov. 24 acetate of potassa was given. The albumen gradually diminished, and on Dec. 2 there was none; the urine had a specific gravity of 1011, and, Dec. 4, the acetate of potassa was omitted.

On Dec 23 she was confined, without any unfavorable symptoms, and gave birth to a fœtus, which had long been dead. There were no further signs of eclampsia.

"The same quiet and sleep-producing effect has been observed in many other cases, in which the chloral hydrat was given per anum in doses of two grammes dissolved in decoction of althæa, with half a cup of warm starch, especially in indisposed pregnant women who need sleep and in persons who have had operations performed. Local irritation never appeared, although the dose was repeated after an hour, when the first clyster was returned.

"As the hypnotic effect of chloral hydrate gave some promise of its being useful in case of spasm of the uterus during parturition, it was employed in a case of rigid os. First, three doses, each containing seven decigrammes Dover's powder, were given; then the next morning four grammes chloral was administered by the mouth, and the warm vaginal douche employed. At 11 o'clock, P. M., the os was no wider, and 0·06 gramme ext. opii and two subcutaneous injections of morphia 0·01 were employed. Deep sleep followed, and, on awaking, the os was found dilated, and the child was born with the help of the forceps.

"Chloral hydrate in this case of obstinate trismus uteri in partu did not produce a resolution of the spasm."

PNEUMONIA PREVALENT AMONG HORSES.—During the past three or four weeks a large number of horses have suffered attacks of this disease in San Francisco, which in many instances proved fatal. Among many teamsters, who have lost pretty heavily by the epidemic, an idea prevails that the disease spread from mustangs, which arrived down from the interior. We notice, however, that it has confined itself in a great measure to the horses that were exposed to the wet and cold—street-car horses, &c., which, however, would likely be the case, regardless of the cause.—*Cal. Med. Gazette.*

Selected Papers.

[We reprint the following reply of Sir James Y. Simpson to Dr. Bigelow, from the *London Medical Times and Gazette* of January 22d, 1870. On so important a subject of discussion between two continents as the discovery of anæsthetic inhalation, we presume that the allegations of Professor Simpson will not go unanswered.—Ed.]

HISTORICAL LETTER ON THE INTRODUCTION OF ANÆSTHETICS IN DENTISTRY AND SURGERY IN AMERICA, AND ON THEIR FIRST EMPLOYMENT IN MIDWIFERY IN GREAT BRITAIN.

By Sir JAMES Y. SIMPSON, Bart, M.D., D.C.L., Professor of Medicine and Midwifery in the University of Edinburgh.

In the last number of the *Medical Times and Gazette* there is copied the chief portion of a letter published at Boston by Dr. Bigelow senior, and referring to the history of anæsthetics in America and in this country. Early in this year I forwarded the following communication to Dr. Bigelow in reply:—

"EDINBURGH, Jan. 3, 1870.

"Dear Sir,—There has been sent to me from America a Chicago newspaper, containing a letter of yours which is alleged to have been published in a late number of the *BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL*. In this letter you speak of the bestowal upon me, some months ago, by my fellow-townsmen, of the rank of an honorary Burgess of Edinburgh; and you comment, in terms of bitterness, upon the subject, and upon what I said—or rather upon what I did not say—on that occasion. I feel assured that if you or any one else had felt as nervous and timid as I did on rising to address the public meeting which witnessed the presentation, you would not be astonished at anything I did allude to, or did not allude to; or that I failed in adverting to numerous matters to which I might and ought to have adverted.

"The *gravamen* of your charge is this:—In his extempore address to me on the occasion in question, the Lord Provost thought fit to allude to some of my Professional investigations, and specially to those bearing on Anæsthetics, Acupressure, and Hospitalism. He spoke of the application of *chloroform* to the assuagement of human suffering as among the 'greatest medical discoveries in modern times.' In replying on the spur of the moment to these among other remarks, I stated simply in a sentence