

geon, in the first place, ascertains that the respiratory organs and the circulating system are sound, if a sufficient quantity of air is admitted into the lungs, together with the chloroform; and, finally, if the inhalation is suspended immediately upon the production of unconsciousness.

M. Amussat maintained that although a free ingress of air took place into the lungs at the same time with chloroform vapours, the colour of the arterial blood became darker as soon as the insensibility was produced. M. A. observes that the effects of ether or chloroform were to be particularly dreaded when patients had lost much blood.—*Med. Times*, Nov. 25.

These conclusions of M. Malgaigne have been attacked by M. GUERIN, who proposed to substitute for them the following:—

1. That chloroform, a most energetic agent, was susceptible, in experienced hands, of rendering signal service, but exhibited in expressive doses, or for too long a time, or by improper methods, it might become a direct cause of death.

2. That circumstances, peculiar conditions existed, not yet altogether pointed out with precision, but of which certain instances demonstrated peremptorily the possibility, which increased the toxic properties of chloroform, and which necessitated the greatest caution in its use.

3. That in M. Gorre's case, it was the opinion of the Academy that chloroform had probably occasioned death, although that agent had been employed in a dose and in a manner which experiment had almost universally shown to be innocuous; and that the rapidity, and exceptional intensity of the intoxication, had been in that instance favoured by individual circumstances, which the surgeon could not possibly foresee.—*Med. Times*, Dec. 2, 1848.

13. *Administration of Mercury in small Doses.*—Mr. HANCOCK stated to the Medical Society of London that he had adopted the plan recommended by some French surgeons of giving calomel in very small doses,—a twentieth part of a grain every hour day and night, until the specific effect of the medicine was produced,—with two patients in Charing-cross Hospital, both of whom had been admitted with inflammation of the testicle, consequent upon gonorrhœa. In one case, he gave a twentieth of a grain of calomel every hour; in the other, a twentieth of a grain every three hours. In the first case, the patient was salivated in thirty-six hours; in the second case, in forty-eight hours. The advantage of this mode of producing ptyalism was, that the effect was milder and more controllable than where larger doses were administered; the bowels were also unaffected. The mode of its administration was as follows:—Calomel, one grain; confection of opium, a scruple; divide in twenty pills—one every hour. In the cases related, the effects of this medicine were most decided.—*Lancet*, Oct. 7, 1848.

14. *Narcotic Principle in Indian Hemp, a Peculiar Resin.* By Messrs. T. & H. SMITH, Edinburgh.—The researches of these chemists show that the remarkable action of Indian hemp on the animal economy depends on the presence of a particular resin, which is soluble in alcohol, and from which it is precipitated by water in the form of a white powdery substance.

This resin, obtained by means of a process described by the authors, is of a yellowish-brown colour. It has a hot, pungent, balsamic taste. Heated on a plate of platinum, it melts and burns away without leaving any residuum, diffusing a strong aromatic odour.

Messrs. Smith found, by experiments made on themselves, that this substance possesses the soothing and hypnotic properties of morphia. In the dose of two-thirds of one grain English, it is a powerful narcotic; in the dose of one grain, it produces complete intoxication.

Under its influence the pupil is contracted. Its action is very persistent; but it does not appear, like opium, to have the inconvenience of producing constipation.

To this resin, of which the plant contains from six to seven per cent., the various preparations used in the East, as haschisch, &c., owe their well-known properties.—*Edin. Med. and Surg. Journ.*, Oct. 1848, from *Pharmaceutical Journal*.

15. *Camphor and Chloroform Mixture.* By T. and H. SMITH. (*Monthly Journ. & Retrospect of the Medical Sciences*, Nov. 1848.)—There is great difficulty, or rather