

stand or do not care to investigate it. I give a case in point.

July 9th, 1879, I was requested to visit a little boy who, with his mother, had come to stay with some friends a short distance off. I was told that he had suffered from a slight cough for some time, and seemed to have taken cold on the journey; he was very feverish, thirsty, &c., and slightly rambling in speech. I examined his chest carefully; respiration roughened and rather louder in the usual places, other parts of chest simply quickened. I applied two small blisters, to be kept on for two or three hours, to be followed by the hot poultices, and gave my usual mixture. His mother asked me the nature of his illness. I said "congestion of both lungs from whooping-cough." The next day he was better, and improved constantly until July 21st, when he was quite well again. I warned his mother to be very careful, as the weather was cold and wet; but some days after I received a note from her, saying that she was obliged to return home, and asking if he could be removed safely. I declined to take the responsibility of sanctioning it, but told her what precautions to take if it were positively necessary; thus I was not surprised to hear soon after that he had been ill again.

On Sept. 25th his mother called to pay my account, and told me that he was getting on well again; she also said that her medical man at home had told her that my diagnosis of the child's illness was wrong, and that he did not agree with my opinion. I answered her that the success of my treatment proved the correctness of my diagnosis, as the child was dangerously ill for two or three days only, and the whole attendance lasted only twelve, that if the gentleman, whose name I did not know, disagreed with my opinion, that arose from his want of knowledge.

On Sept. 1st, 1878, Mrs. G. C.—brought her infant to me; it had suffered from cough for some time, and when she came had diarrhoea with very offensive stools. I attended it for ten days, when it had quite recovered. Its grandmother had constantly nursed it, washed it and its clothes, and, if I remember right, it had slept with her. On Sept. 10th she sent for medicine, not feeling quite well, and on Sept. 13th sent in a hurry for me to see her about 7 P.M. I found her in bed propped up with pillows, violent pain shooting up each side of spine into the occiput and in the head, which was hot, and face much flushed; eyes injected, with contracted pupils; wandering manner; profuse diarrhoea, with very offensive stools; feeling of sickness, but not much vomiting; tongue brown and very dry. I ordered cold to the head, leeches to nape of neck, and sent a mixture with sesquicarbonate of ammonia, catechu, and cinchona, &c. There was, however, a long attendance, and when the spinal and head symptoms improved cough came on troublesome at night. That also improved, and she became convalescent towards the beginning of November. I warned her nurse to be careful of cold, but on Nov. 9th I was sent for in a hurry about 7 P.M. I found her suffering great pain in the subscapular region on the left side; it extended quite round the side to the front, and on auscultation found a mucous râle through the lower part of left lung. Cough very troublesome, great dyspnoea, with thick white expectoration. I applied a blister, to be followed by hot poultices, giving my usual mixture. She was better next day, and by Dec. 1st she was convalescent. I called occasionally in passing till Dec. 29th. I may add that she had suffered from an ulcerated leg for thirty years. This healed during her illness, nothing being able to keep it open, and she is now quite well.

In this case the child had whooping-cough, and gave the poison to the grandmother, in whom at first it assumed the form of cerebro-spinal meningitis, ultimately to appear in its true form, catarrhal pneumonia, from her catching cold while convalescent.

New Whittington, near Chesterfield.

## REVELATIONS UNDER ETHER.

BY TOM BIRD, M.R.C.S.,  
INSTRUCTOR IN THE USE OF ANÆSTHETICS TO GUY'S HOSPITAL.

MY first case of ether mania was that of a man between forty and fifty years of age, who had undergone a simple operation for which he required to be deeply anæsthetised. Chloroform was denied him—reason unassailable. Gas and ether had been used, the operation lasting from ten minutes to a quarter of an hour. For two hours he literally confessed; as he expressed it in the evening—"I knew what I was saying perfectly. I knew that I ought not to say it, but I could not help it, and you ought not to have left her" (the nurse) "in the room." He was right, but I did not know why until I met with my second case some eighteen months afterwards. It was that of a young married woman, a hospital patient, whom I saw from half an hour to three-quarters after the operation. She was recounting to her mother (not present), in the clearest tones, subject-matter that I do not think she would have ever confided, if conscious; it was a subject that had evidently been laid by in memory. For a quarter of an hour I tried to divert in every way her attention to her present condition, insisting that her mother was not present, without the slightest avail; she was totally oblivious of everything but her story. The patient was a lady of education and refinement, and her language had not the slightest fault in its expression, but her bedroom was a "Palace of truth."

There is not the slightest connexion between the symptoms of these two cases and the ramblings of chloroform, which are disconnected, illusory, and easily diverted, occurring mostly during administration; or the gibberish of methylene bichloride, the latter is not even noisy; but this ether mania is a noxious thing, and the lesson I would draw is that the patient should be left only in the care of a discreet and responsible nurse until all self-control returns.

Brook-street, W.

## A Mirror OF

## HOSPITAL PRACTICE, BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

Nulla autem est alia pro certo noscendi via, nisi quamplurimas et morborum et dissectionum historias, tum aliorum tum proprias collectas habere, et inter se comparare.—MORGAGNI *De Sed. et Caus. Morb.*, lib. iv. Proœmium.

### CHARING-CROSS HOSPITAL.

BILATERAL LITHOTOMY; REMOVAL OF EIGHT SMALL CALCULI, AND ONE LARGE MULBERRY CALCULUS;  
DEATH; REMARKS.

(Under the care of Mr. BELLAMY.)

As illustrative of the possible difficulties during the operation of lithotomy the following case is highly instructive.

J. W—, aged seventy-two, was admitted on May 9th, 1881, with symptoms of stone in the bladder, which had commenced four or five years ago.

On admission his sufferings from cystitis were so acute, as indeed they had been for some time, that removal of the stone by incision was evidently indicated. On sounding the patient a large irregular calculus was readily felt, apparently sacculated on the floor of the bladder behind the prostate. The operation of lateral lithotomy was determined on, and Mr. Bellamy performed it on May 17th. The perineum was very narrow and deep, the prostate very large. On withdrawing the staff the stone slipped away from the finger and could not be felt on introducing the forceps. Suspecting that the calculus or calculi were pouched, Mr. Bellamy reintroduced the staff, and in order to give more room for manipulation cut the opposite side of the prostate, making the incision bilateral. On withdrawing the staff for the second time the finger detected a quantity of small stones, eight in number, which were not previously felt on sounding. These were removed with a scoop. The large stone, however, could not be felt at first, but by hooking his finger behind

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY.—The Registry of the University, Dr. Luard, supplies the following information, which may be interesting for purposes of comparison, as to the total number of all degrees conferred during the past academical year, excluding honorary degrees:—Doctors in Divinity, 7; Doctors of Law, 3; Doctors of Medicine, 7; Masters of Arts, 337; Masters of Law, 21; Bachelors of Arts (honours), 270; Bachelors of Arts (ordinary degrees), 314; Bachelors in Divinity, 4; Bachelors of Law, 40; Bachelors of Medicine, 16; Bachelor of Music, 1—making a total of 1020, the largest number ever yet recorded.