

2. Describe the structure of the larger and smaller arteries; and explain how their structure is adapted to their function. What is the true meaning of "arterial action?"

3. Describe the coats of the stomach; their general arrangement and minute structure. What are the characters of the gastric secretion; and what is its probable amount daily?

4. Describe the mechanism of respiration; and the changes it impresses on the air inspired.

5. Define, with reference to the surface of the body, the situation of the heart, aorta, liver, stomach, and spleen.

6. What is the function of the liver?

Second Examination.

MIDWIFERY AND THE DISEASES OF WOMEN.

1. Describe the course of the head through the pelvis, in a case of face presentation.

2. Describe the various conditions upon which protracted labour depends, and point out the remedies suitable to each.

3. What are the different indications for the induction of premature labour? What are the different modes of inducing it, and the comparative advantages and disadvantages of each?

4. Describe the principal remedies employed in restraining uterine hæmorrhage; explain their modes of operation, and point out the particular circumstances under which each should be employed.

5. What is retroversion of the uterus? By what circumstances is it produced? and how is it treated?

6. Enumerate the different varieties of uterine polypus, and describe the seat and structure of each, with the symptoms to which they give rise.—*The Lancet.*

ALLEGED IMMUNITY FROM DANGER OF SULPHURIC ETHER IN ANÆSTHESIA.

To the Editor of the Edinburgh Medical Journal.

BOSTON, March 10, 1861.

DEAR SIR,—Will you have the kindness to insert the accompanying circular in the *Edinburgh Monthly Medical Journal*?

It explains itself, I believe, and will, I trust, elicit such facts as your readers may possess bearing on the subject of its inquiries.

The question at issue seems as undecided in England (I cannot speak for Scotland) as it is here. Mr Erichsen, in the 2d edition of his *Science and Art of Surgery*, says that "no death has as yet resulted from its (ether) administration." This statement is reiterated in his recent 3d edition, notwithstanding the assertion made by Mr Charles Kidd (*Med. Times and Gaz.*, May 12, 1860), that twenty-five deaths had occurred from ether or amyline.

Dr George Hayward, the first surgeon who performed a capital operation during the entire insensibility of the patient to pain, during a recent visit to Europe instituted inquiries on the point; and, just before his return to America, published an article in the *Brit. and For. Med.-Chir. Review*, wherein he says that he has never known or heard of a well-attested case of death from the

inhalation of pure sulphuric ether, though he had taken unwearied pains to obtain information with reference to such an occurrence.

I might also refer to the opinions of the surgeons of Lyons or Naples in behalf of the security of ether, but enough has been said to show the diversity which prevails as to belief in the entire innocuousness of that agent.

The importance of the question must be the excuse for my request made in behalf of the committee which I represent.

Communications may be addressed to the undersigned, chairman of the committee; and the foreign postage, it may be well to say, need not be prepaid.—

Very respectfully your obedient servant,

R. M. HODGES.

(Circular.)

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, U. S.

The question of the entire immunity from danger which is claimed for anæsthesia produced by ether being still under discussion, the Boston Society for Medical Improvement has appointed the undersigned a committee "to investigate the alleged deaths from the inhalation of sulphuric ether, and to report thereon."

They would therefore request the medical profession, or any person into whose hands this may fall, to communicate to either of them such cases, coming within their own observation, as shall serve to this end; giving the place, time, and circumstances of their occurrence, with the mode of inhalation adopted, and, especially, information in regard to the following points:—

1st—*The kind of ether used, whether pure sulphuric ether, chloric ether, or ether combined with chloroform.*

2d—*The period after inhalation at which death occurred;*

also any other facts which may enable them to form an opinion on the subject of their investigations.

RICHARD M. HODGES, M.D.

GEORGE HAYWARD, M.D.

SOLOMON D. TOWNSEND, M.D.

CHARLES T. JACKSON, M.D.

J. BAXTER UPHAM, M.D.

February 1861.

VARIETIES.

APPOINTMENT.—Dr Sanders has been appointed Physician to the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, in room of Dr Keiller, who retires by rotation.

MEDICAL COUNCIL.—Professor Sharpey, of University College, London, has been nominated by the Crown to the seat at the Medical Council, vacant by the death of Dr Baly.