

longer time than he anticipated. We have, however, every reason to believe that it will be printed in the next number of our journal.

## Operations Without Pain.

### ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL.

On November 18th, Mr. Tatum amputated the breast of Sarah B—, a widow, aged fifty-nine, for a scirrhus tumour. The chloroform was administered by Dr. Snow with his ether apparatus. The patient was insensible, and ready for the operation to be commenced, in about a minute from the beginning of the inhalation; but as her shirt had to be removed, the valve was opened a little, and the vapour continued more diluted, until the operation could be begun, and also during the excision of the tumour. There was not the least sign of pain evinced, and the patient began to recover her sensibility and consciousness together during the bandaging of the chest. A fluid drachm of chloroform was used.

On November 25th, Mr. H. C. Johnson performed the operation of lithotomy on Robert F—, aged two years. Half a drachm of chloroform was sprinkled over a sponge squeezed out of cold water, and the sponge was applied by Dr. Snow over the mouth and nostrils. The child was crying at the time, and drawing a breath at intervals. After four or five inspirations it ceased to cry; after a few more inspirations it lost the voluntary power over its eyelids, and the staff was introduced without causing any sign of pain; and the operation was performed immediately afterwards, and an ovoid calculus, about an inch in its long diameter, was removed, also without any pain. On the introduction of the staff, the sponge was removed, and applied afterwards at short intervals, but without the addition of fresh chloroform. The child held its breath occasionally when the sponge was applied, and his lips became blue in consequence. He recovered his consciousness immediately after the conclusion of the operation, which only lasted a minute or two altogether.

On the same day, Mr. H. C. Johnson also operated on Michael M—, aged fourteen, for necrosis of the tibia. This boy inhaled the vapour of chloroform from the ether apparatus—the water-bath of the apparatus being at 60°. He became sufficiently insensible in two minutes for the operation to be commenced, and it was performed without exciting the least sign of sensation at any part of the time. During the trephining of the bone, after the chloroform had been discontinued, he vomited his daily allowance of porter, which he had drank just before the operation. He recovered his consciousness soon after his removal to bed, and remained rather sick during the afternoon, but had no further sequelae from the chloroform.

On December 2nd, Mr. Cæsar Hawkins operated on Jane M—, aged seventeen, for a deep-seated abscess of the breast. She inhaled from the apparatus with the water-bath at 60°, a drachm of chloroform having been put in. In about a minute she appeared to have lost her consciousness, and in a minute or two longer the sensibility of the eyelids was much diminished, and the operation was commenced by a deep incision, which gave exit to a quantity of pus. This caused no sign of pain; but on the opening being enlarged just afterwards, she made a wry face, and cried out a little. The chloroform was found to be all dried up; she had been inhaling only air the latter part of the time, and was recovering during the operation; but she retained no knowledge of it; and when she recovered her consciousness, two or three minutes afterwards, said that she had felt nothing.

On December 9th, Mr. H. C. Johnson made extension with pulleys, to reduce a partial dislocation of the humerus occasioned by a fall from a height ten weeks previously. The patient, W. R—, a labourer, was a muscular man, aged forty. He inhaled chloroform from the apparatus, the water-bath being 52°. He soon lost his consciousness, and then muttered unintelligibly for about a minute; then he was silent, but his limbs and body became rigid from contraction of the muscles, and his face flushed; but in about a minute, the inhalation being continued, these symptoms subsided, and he lay quietly on the table, with the muscles relaxed. Traction was now made, without causing any sign of pain, and the head of the humerus was moved easily. A bandage was applied, to retain it in its position. The patient muttered after the chloroform was left off as he had done whilst getting under its influence. He recovered his consciousness in about five minutes, and had no knowledge of anything having been done. A drachm and a half of chloroform was used in this case.

### REMOVAL OF TUMOURS &c.,

By W. VESALIUS PETTIGREW, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.S.E.

A week or two has but elapsed since the chloroform was introduced to our notice, practically, as an improved substitute for ether. Having extensively used the latter, and frequently found it objectionable, I was only too glad to hear of some other anæsthetic. I send you the result of my experience as to the effects of the chloroform, and if you should deem it worthy of insertion in your journal, I trust it may serve as an example to others to follow, even in the trifling operations of surgery, which, after all, are the most important. Any carpenter might amputate a limb, but he could not perform the operation for fistula lachrymalis.

CASE 1.—Nov. 26th. Jane W—; removal of an encysted tumour from the back of the neck, which was about the size of a small orange; insensibility produced within a minute; applied by means of the pocket-handkerchief. I had previously removed several encysted tumours from this patient; but the ether always produced so much irritation of the lungs, that at the earnest entreaty of the patient I had always desisted, and removed the tumours without the aid of the fluid. Sickness five minutes after the return to sensibility; headach for two days; wound healed by the first intention.

CASE 2.—Nov. 30th. This and the three following operations were performed in the presence of Dr. Wilson, Mr. Sampson, Mr. Pettigrew, and from twenty to thirty other medical gentlemen. Mary S—, aged six; chin bound down to the sternum by the cicatrix of an extensive burn. The chloroform was attempted to be administered by Snow's apparatus, but alarmed the child so much, that I then used the pocket-handkerchief, which I have always since adopted; coma produced in about twenty-five seconds. The whole of the integuments, from the chin to the sternum, were dissected off, and the sound skin of the neck brought in contact by means of ligatures, the head being kept back. The child vomited during the operation, and suffered severely from smarting, when recovered from the effects of the chloroform.

CASE 3.—Nov. 30th. Hannah J—, aged seven weeks; nævus upon the face. The infant being very delicate of its age, it was thought advisable not to administer the chloroform. Accordingly, at the suggestion of a gentleman present, chromic acid was applied to the nævus. Subsequently, I found this completely fail, and have since destroyed the nævus with nitric acid.

CASE 4.—Nov. 30th. T. S—, aged nine; strabismus of the right eye; coma produced in about thirty seconds; operation performed without the patient being at all aware of it; sickness produced about a quarter of an hour after the operation. The operation has been quite successful.

CASE 5.—Nov. 30th. Jane A—, aged forty-three; tumour in the popliteal region. This, which was of fifteen years' growth, was exceedingly painful to the touch. Coma took place in about one minute; tumour removed, and found adherent to the perineal nerve, which appeared spread out upon it; slight headach for about two hours after the operation; wound healed by the first intention, and the patient has done well. Did not feel the operation, but dreamt during its performance.

CASE 6.—Nov. 30th: Mary-Ann L—, aged seven; cicatrix from a burn, binding the chin to the sternum, also drawing down the eyelids and right corner of the mouth; coma produced within a minute; the whole of the integuments, from the chin to the sternum, removed, cutting like so much gristle. Five scalpels were blunted with this operation. Healthy skin borrowed from the sides of the neck, and brought together by sutures; the head thrown back. The angle of the mouth is left for a future operation, but is much relieved; the eyelids can now be closed, which has not been the case for many months. Since the operation, both this patient and the little girl, S—, have been attacked with the prevailing epidemic, and have suffered from erysipelas; this, however, has been subdued, and the cases are going on favourably.

CASE 7.—Dec. 3rd. Jane M—, aged two years and eight months; residing at No. 1, Wilton-road; a pretty little blue-eyed, light-haired child. A tumour of very doubtful appearance presented over the lower part of the sacrum, and evidently extending under the gluteus maximus. It was pronounced by some to be a chronic abscess; by others, a spina bifida; by others, a nævus; by others, a fungoid or malignant tumour. The chloroform was administered; coma produced within a minute. An incision of about five inches was made through the integuments, and the tumour traced for some distance beneath the gluteus maximus. Two tumours were