

to fatal cases, he said one had happened at Mr. Robinson's, the dentist's, in which the patient did not virtually inhale half a drachm of chloroform, but had died from syncope, produced by fright, accompanied with cardiac disease; and in other cases death had arisen from its inexperienced administration. Dr. Snow said that, with a little experience, a patient may be brought under its influence in three or four minutes, with from thirty minims to a drachm of chloroform. In most fatal cases there was evidence of want of skill, as in a case in Mile End. The first half-drachm administered produced no effect, the second proved fatal; but Dr. Snow considered, if in this case there was extraordinary susceptibility, the first half-drachm should have produced anæsthetic effects.

Dr. COPLAND said he had listened with great attention to both papers on chloroform. He quite concurred in the belief that it was highly dangerous in unskilful hands, and when used injudiciously, as where the operator did not sufficiently inquire into the state of the patient; and Dr. Copland thought that, in neuralgia connected with organic cerebral lesion, we should stop, and not use this agent. He next observed that reference was made to its action, both on the peripheral and nervous centres; but that no effect of its action on the lungs had been mentioned. The first paper slightly referred to this subject. In some cases Dr. Copland thought it might prove beneficial, but in others certainly injurious. He had seen cases in which death took place soon after its use, and where there were indications of congestive pneumonia. Chloroform, in its action on the peripheral nerves, must be considered to impair the functions of the capillaries, and so, by producing congestion, gives rise to a most troublesome form of pneumonia: it should be used, if at all, with great caution where there was a congestive tendency; as, for instance, in the early stage of phthisis. He considered it a dangerous remedy, and only to be used by careful hands.

The PRESIDENT said that, in order to allow the authors of the papers an opportunity of reply, he would not close the meeting (it then being ten o'clock) for some time longer.

Mr. DUNN said he had no wish to detain the meeting, but his object in bringing the paper before the Society was to allow this subject to be brought in such a light before the Society that its authoritative advice on such an important subject would be made known to the profession at large.

The PRESIDENT announced that the next meeting of the Society would not take place

until May 8, and that the following papers then would be read:—

On Fatty Degenerations of the Placenta, by Robert Barnes; and

On the Physiological Effects of Atmospheric Electricity, by Dr. Faraday.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

May 5, 1851.

DR. BABINGTON, THE PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR.

THE ordinary Meeting of this Society was held this day at the house of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, 53, Berners Street.

The discussion on yellow fever, which had occupied the former meeting to the exclusion of Mr. Cooke's paper, terminated with Dr. M'William's able reply to his opponents, at a quarter to ten.

The PRESIDENT stated, that on future occasions only two evenings could be allowed for discussion on one subject.

Dr. SNOW commenced, at a quarter past ten, to read his paper "On the Mode of Propagation of Cholera." Soon after ten, it was moved and seconded that further time should be given for the reading of the paper on the same night, ten o'clock being the hour of adjournment. An amendment was put and carried, "That the further reading of Dr. Snow's paper be deferred to the next meeting, on the second of June." Many gentlemen were present who were anxious to hear this paper read.

On that night Mr. R. H. Cooke* will also read his paper, "On the Epidemic Mental Diseases of Children," founded chiefly on Hecker's "Children's Pilgrimages" and "Sympathy."

* * In our next number we shall publish the admirable reply of Dr. M'William on the subject of the Importation of Yellow Fever into Brazil.

ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, PARIS.

April 22, 1851.

Exploration of the Retina by Phosphenes.

M. LARREY read the fourth and concluding part of the work, by M. Serre, on the above subject. In this portion of his essay the author treated of phosphene in its relations

* Not Clarke as before printed.