

pose to make an array of all my cases, which would simply amount to repeating here the observations already published by others, and perhaps weary the reader. There is, however, one therapeutic use of chloral which I do not find reported in any of the medical periodicals I have read; and therefore I venture to forward the following notes for insertion in THE LANCET.

On July 15th, at 4 A.M., I attended Mrs. R—, aged twenty, a very slender and delicate-looking woman, pregnant with her second child at term. She was seized with labour pains on the previous morning, which returned at long intervals, and were inefficient. She felt much exhausted. Os dilated to the size of a half-crown piece. I ordered a dose of opium, and returned to see her at 10 A.M., at which time she was very restless. Seeing no benefit produced by the opium, I gave her half a drachm of chloral hydrate, to be repeated within two hours in case she could not obtain rest. Soon after taking the dose she fell into a profound sleep, and on awaking, about four hours after, the pains became more active, and she was delivered within ten minutes of a fine healthy child. Both mother and baby are doing well.

About a week after I was called upon to see Mrs. B—, a Parsee lady, in her fourth pregnancy and third labour. Her previous accouchements were all tedious. Her age is twenty-five. Had been in labour a day and a night. Pains lingering. Os dilated to the extent of a florin. From my former experience I gave her half a drachm of chloral, which procured a deep sleep. She awoke six hours afterwards, and within a quarter of an hour gave birth to a male child. She is in excellent health.

On Aug. 1st, at 11 A.M., I was sent for to see N— J—, aged seventeen, a primipara. She was hysterical; had been in labour thirty hours. Pains had made no progress; they recurred at intervals of thirty and forty minutes. She felt much fatigued, and was dispirited. Os dilated to the size of a florin. I lost no time in giving a dose of chloral. She slept for three hours, and on awaking had two strong pains, which terminated her delivery. Placenta followed about ten minutes after.

These cases I do not pretend to say will establish a rule, but the constancy of result can hardly be the work of chance, although tested in only three cases. The efficiency of the pains, restored by repose obtained through the use of hydrate of chloral better than any other hypnotic I have tried, seems to indicate how important the use of this drug might prove in more experienced hands than mine, while I shall content myself with bearing my testimony in favour of a drug which is still *sub judice*.

There is only one remark more to be made. It is stated by some authorities that the chloral hydrate is a nauseous drug, and that the first dose is almost invariably rejected. I am not acquainted yet with a single instance in which it was rejected; on the contrary, some of my patients liked its taste. I do not know, I am sure, whether individual or climatic circumstances have anything to do in rendering it more palatable; but the fact is not an unimportant one to be here recorded.

Bombay, August 15th, 1870.

CHLORAL HYDRATE IN LABOUR.

By J. GERSON DA CUNHA, M.R.C.S. Eng.

SINCE the day chloral hydrate arrived at Bombay, I have been in the habit of prescribing it in sundry forms of disease, and altogether I must have given it to between fifty and sixty different cases. It will answer really no pur-