

closed, observe carefully the appearance of the eye, the pupil of which will be found, in most cases, after about a minute's inhalation, to be considerably dilated; after eight or ten more inhalations the pupil will remain stationary and fixed for a period, varying from two to three seconds; it will then turn towards the upper eye-lid. This motion will be repeated several times. If the vapour be continued the pupil will be observed to turn under the eye-lid and remain fixed; three or four inhalations more and the operator can commence.

"In operations which are protracted and require any length of time, cut off the vapour by means of the stop-cock attached to the apparatus; permit the patient to breathe the atmosphere through the nose five or six times; again let on the vapour, breathing alternately atmospheric air and the vapour of ether, at intervals of half a minute, until within two or three minutes of the completion of the operation, when the pipe, &c., can be removed with perfect safety."

J. ROBINSON.

7, Gower Street.

INHALATION OF ÆTHER IN SURGICAL OPERATIONS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,

The *Lancet* of January 9th, page 49, publishes a communication from a physician, reinforced by an opinion upon a supposed case, given by a Queen's Counsel, tending to diminish the value of the patent for the Lethæon. Will you do me the favour to give publicity to the following answer to that communication?

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES A. DORR.

London, 18, Duke Street, St. James's,
January 11, 1847.

Reply to the opinion of Queen's Council, published in the *Lancet*, January 9th, page 49.

1st. No counsel can give a client valuable, or even safe, advice, as to danger of infringement, who has not read the specification, and does not know the claim of the patent. The patent for the Lethæon has been duly sealed, but the specification is not yet made public.

2nd. So far as the general principles of law enunciated go, they confirm the views of the patentees.

JAMES A. DORR.

[We question much, notwithstanding Mr. Dorr's letter, whether such a patent can be sustained, and certainly it ought not to be so. Any particular form of apparatus may without doubt, be made the property of the inventor; but the attempt to place restrictions on the mode of using a known medical agent by qualified medical practitioners, is as absurd, as its success would be mischievous.—Ed.]

Medical Intelligence.

OPERATIONS PERFORMED UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ÆTHER.

The following successful operations, performed under the influence of the inhalation of the vapour of sulphuric æther, have been reported since our last number:—

At Guy's Hospital, by Mr. Morgan, lithotomy, on a country lad; by Mr. Key, on a man aged 26, for strangulated scrotal hernia, with removal of a large mass of thickened omentum.

At King's College Hospital, by Mr. Fergusson, for phymosis, on a man aged 43; for abscess and fistula in ano, in a delicate female aged 26; passing a catheter through a tight stricture in the bulbous part of the urethra, in a man aged 32; removal of warts from the glans and prepuce, in a man aged 21.

At St. Thomas' Hospital, by Mr. Mackmurdo, the removal of a finger, from a child aged 6.

At the London Hospital, by Mr. Adams, amputation of the leg.

At Charing-Cross Hospital, by Mr. Hancock, removal of the nail from both great toes, in a man aged about 34.

At the Westminster Hospital, by Mr. Hale Thomson, removal of condylomatous growths from the labia, in a woman of middle age; for phymosis, in a young man.

At St. George's Hospital, by Mr. Johnson, amputation below the knee, in a young man.

At the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, by Mr. Knowles, amputation of the leg, in a female.

At the Lynn Hospital, by Mr. Cotton, removal of cataract, in a female, and in an old man; of a cancerous tumour of the lip, in an old man.

Operations have also been successfully performed by Dr. Brett, (extraction of a cataract; ptosis;) by Mr. Lawrence, (removal of a tumour from the orbit;) by Mr. Partridge, of Birmingham, (strangulated hernia;) by Mr. Parker, of Liverpool, (for strabismus;) by Dr. J. C. Hall, of East-Retford, (removal of a tumour;) by Mr. Rudkin, of Derby, (removal of a sequestrum of diseased bone from the leg;) &c., &c.

Mr. R. Lucas, a veterinary surgeon at Liverpool, has also performed an operation on a Newfoundland dog under the influence of æther vapour; the animal did not evince the slightest sign of suffering.

CAUSE OF DEATH IN STILL-BORN INFANTS.

Dr. King, of Sackville Street, has just submitted to the Medico-Chirurgical Society, an Essay "On the cause of Death of Infants Prematurely Still-born," wherein he insists, that death is not from asphyxia, as hitherto supposed, but from syncope; and proposes an entirely new practice, by which means the still-born infant will be of comparatively rare occurrence.

