8. That the raving which so frequently attends pneumonia is often due to the existence of acute disease in the brain.

9. That this disease of the brain may even lead to paralysis.

10. That the antiphlogistic treatment, including bloodletting, and modified according to the demands of each case, is the best treatment which can be adopted in the early stages of the acute and sthenic disease.

It may be in the recollection of some of the members of the Obstetrical Society, that in the last paper on the use of chloroform in midwifery, published by me, I stated my belief that there was no case of ordinary labour in which it would be found necessary to produce complete sopor, but that the mode and extent of administration set forth therein would be quite sufficient in all cases to procure the relief sought for by the use of the drug. A very short time elapsed, after the publication of that essay, when I met with the following case, which served to show me that the opinion therein advanced was not strictly tenable, but that cases may and do arise—rarely, I believe—in which it will be necessary to deviate from the rule laid down, and instead of the small and often repeated doses by inhalation of chloroform, so as to secure freedom from pain without deprivation of consciousness, a full and free use of the drug will be required to overcome the highly excited state of the nervous system, and procure repose.

October 2nd, 1852. Mrs. —, aged 23 years, a thin, spare, delicate, highly nervous and excitable person, was taken in labour of her first child at 11 o'clock, p.m. The pains increased gradually for four hours, when the os uteri was nearly dilated, and the head of the child was well advanced through the cavity of the pelvis. She was very anxious to have the chloroform, and accordingly the inhaler was used in the manner so often described by me. She continued the use of the drug...
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for six hours without intermission, and without any signal benefit or relief. She seemed to suffer more pain than falls to the lot of the great majority of patients, and she was less influenced by the inhalation than I had ever witnessed. She dashed herself about with uncontrollable violence, and notwithstanding she had inhaled fully four ounces of chloroform in six hours, given through the inhaler, she resisted its anaesthetic influence. At this juncture I saw that my usual mode of administration would not do, and that something more decisive must be resorted to. The pains were violent; the head had just come to press on the perineum; the prospect of delivery in a short time was but faint; I therefore determined to get her at once completely under the full action of chloroform. With this view, I placed a piece of sponge in the bottom of a tumbler, and, having moistened it with the drug, I applied the mouth of the glass over the mouth and nose. Her violence was soon subdued, and she fell into sleep, in which condition I kept her for four hours, during which the pains continued with equal violence as before. At the end of that time, finding the head had not made advance through the pelvis, I had recourse to the forceps, and delivered a very large living boy. I was struck with the rapidity with which this lady recovered consciousness after the chloroform was withdrawn from her. In a quarter of an hour after the child was born, she was the only person in the house who could remember the name of the woman who had been engaged to nurse the child, and where she lived. This showed that her sensorium was not materially or permanently affected by the enormous amount (6 oz.) of chloroform she had employed during ten hours of her labour.

I have since met with two or three patients whose tolerance of chloroform was nearly equal to that just described, but none to come up to it.

The following case exhibits in a striking manner the value of chloroform in one of the most perilous conditions attendant on parturition, namely, puerperal convulsions:——

September 29th, 1852. Whilst still in the house of a patient who had been just delivered of her first child, after using chloroform for eight hours, I was summoned to a lady residing ten miles from Dublin, whom I had attended at the birth of three children while she had lived in town, but on this occasion, having made up her mind to remain in the country, she had placed herself under the care of a gentleman in her neighbourhood. I reached the house at four o’clock, p.m., and as I entered her room she was seized with a most violent convulsion.