A GUIDE TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF ETHYL CHLORIDE

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THE INDUCTION ABOUT TO COMMENCE.

NOTE.—The ethyl chloride chamber stands on the table, and the little lever controlling the stopcock is vertical.

CONTINUING THE ADMINISTRATION THROUGH THE TUBE.

NOTE.—The ethyl chloride chamber is now in the hot water, and the lever horizontal, allowing the vapour to pass.

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BY

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PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

SINCE publishing the first edition of this little work two years ago, most of the standard works on anæsthetics have been revised, and now appear with chapters on the subject of ethyl chloride. I venture to think, however, there is still room for a short monograph dealing with this subject alone. In the present edition I have endeavoured to collate and bring up to date the work of others, and in the light of further experience have had to modify some of the views I formerly held.

My thanks are due to Messrs. Duncan and Flockhart for the loan of blocks depicting their apparatus.

G. A. H. BARTON.

TALBOT ROAD, W.
October, 1907.

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

THIS little work has no pretensions to be either an exhaustive or scientific treatise on the subject of ethyl chloride. It is the outcome of practical experience in the administration of this anæsthetic during the last three years.

I venture to hope that the following pages may prove helpful to those whose experience of ethyl chloride has so far been limited.

G. A. H. BARTON.

WESTBOURNE PARK ROAD, W.

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ETHYL CHLORIDE

BEFORE entering into practical details, a short account of the properties of ethyl chloride and of its introduction to this country as a general anæsthetic may be of some interest.

Ethyl chloride, also known as chlorethyl and Kelene, the latter a proprietary preparation, is a very volatile colourless fluid, with an agreeable ethereal odour, of the chemical formula C_2H_5Cl, density 0·92 at 0° C., density of vapour compared to air 2·3, boiling-point 12·5° C. or 54·5° F. This low boiling-point is of practical importance, as will appear later. It is prepared by acting on ethyl alcohol with hydrochloric acid gas, the yield being increased by the addition of zinc chloride. For anæsthetic purposes it should be obtained as pure as possible; it is wise to use only that which is guaranteed by the makers to be made from pure ethylic alcohol. For trade purposes, I am told, it may be made from methylated spirits; any such preparations should, I think, be avoided by anæsthetists, as they would not unlikely contain methyl chloride and possibly other impurities. Some specimens, I note, cause the appearance of a good deal of verdigris on the metal springs or taps connected with the apparatus, due, I should say, to the presence of some free HCl in the preparation. An analysis of several brands was made in