

was found to be 0.54 gramme, which compares very favourably with the figures given by Gurlt,¹ according to whom when Esmarch's mask is used a gramme of chloroform is required per minute, and when Kappeler's apparatus is employed 0.6 gramme. In one case (empyema) cessation of respiration occurred after only half a drachm had been given. In another case the excitement was so great that after twenty-five minutes, during which half an ounce had been given, Esmarch's mask was substituted for Kappeler's. After ten minutes' further administration breathing ceased, and artificial respiration was resorted to with a successful result. In four cases only was there any vomiting, and in these only towards the end of the operation.

M. HAFFKINE.

OUR readers are well acquainted with the enthusiastic spirit in which M. Haffkine has carried on his labours in India while endeavouring to deal with such diseases as cholera and bubonic plague. We are glad, therefore, to be able to congratulate him on the fact that the Government of India, recognising the arduous and valuable nature of his recent work in connexion with the plague, have sanctioned the grant of a monthly salary of Rs. 2000 to him instead of the allowances hitherto given. This arrangement is to have a retrospective effect from the date on which he began work in Bombay.

VOICE-TRAINING.

THE Society for Physical Voice-training has received favourable notice in the *Cambridge Review* for April 29th. Our contemporary asks, "Why should we not have a professor of rhetoric?" We do not think the present a very good opportunity for the suggestion of new professorships or readerships at Cambridge, having regard to the admitted poverty of the University, but we certainly think that the proper cultivation of the voice is a subject upon which all educational bodies would do well to take thought. Every educated man ought to be able to speak and read aloud in a way that is comprehensible, and not only comprehensible but pleasant, to his hearers, but as a matter of fact the ordinary Englishman can do neither the one nor the other.

"CHURCHED TWICE IN ONE WEEK."

OUR attention has been directed to a paragraph in the *Manx Church Magazine* for January, 1893. An extract from a parish register dated 1630 is there given as follows: "1660. Rob Cottier's wife was delivered of a child which was baptised upon the Monday and she came to the church to be churched upon the Wednesday next after, and after returning home she fell in labour and was delivered of another child, and came to be churched upon the Saturday next after in the same week. Churched twice in one week. This I certify to be the truth.—Edward Crow, minister." It will be seen that the exact interval between the two confinements is not given. For all the register directly says to the contrary, the child whose baptism is mentioned might have been a year old, or even a person "of riper years"; the first churching might, also, have been left somewhat in arrear; but evidently the probability is that Edward Crow was somewhat struck with the fact that after the birth of a mature, or premature, infant a woman, without renewed coitus, may in the course of one, two, or three months give birth to another child, which may be mature or premature. There are three classes of such cases. In twin pregnancies after one child is born the other may be retained some weeks or months and then be born; again, a woman may have a double uterus, in each side there may be an ovum, and each side may expel

its foetus at a different time; lastly, it may be a genuine case of superfœtation. Coitus taking place in the early months of pregnancy, a second ovum may be fertilised, and the children be born at different times. A case recorded by Dr. Bonnar, quoted in Playfair's *Midwifery*, is a good example of this class. A child was born on Sept. 12th, 1849, and another on Jan. 24th, 1850—that is, about sixteen weeks after the first. Both children survived, so that the second child could not have been conceived after the birth of the first, or we should find a foetus of about sixteen weeks' development born alive and surviving, which is impossible. On the other hand, the case could not be one of twins, the first of which was expelled prematurely, because the first born who survived would be, on that hypothesis, of only about five months' development.

FORTY YEARS OF OFFICE.

MR. SAMUEL STRETTON of Kidderminster has resigned his appointment as medical officer to the workhouse after forty years' service. Forty years is a very large slice out of a man's active life—it is, in fact, a longer time of working activity than the average medical man enjoys—but during all this period Mr. Stretton has devoted himself with enthusiasm to the care of the sick and aged poor of Kidderminster. Familiarity with the duties did not make him weary of them, so that we cannot be surprised that the guardians have received his resignation with outspoken regret, attributing to him the present excellent sanitary condition of their workhouse. We congratulate Mr. Stretton upon the reputation which he has thus won among his fellow townsmen for intelligent and kindly work.

THE RESOURCES OF CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY.

DR. BUTLER, the Master of Trinity, has written to the *Times* concerning the pecuniary position of Cambridge University. The precariousness of this position was pointed out in our columns some weeks ago¹ in an article founded upon a circular letter addressed to the press by the Duke of Devonshire, the Chancellor of the University. His Grace's letter concluded, it may be remembered, with the statement that "the re-endowment of the University in respect of many of its departments is a pressing necessity," while Dr. Butler's letter shows that in many of our great public schools practical re-endowment has taken place during the past sixty or seventy years, so that the ancient University has fallen behind the institutions whence she derives a large proportion of her raw material. In fact, the raw material reaches the University in a condition of elaboration almost higher than the University can maintain it at without sacrifices on the part of the executive and all concerned with the administration that should not be expected and cannot be continued. And even so the fall behind has been hardly prevented. This fact comes home to medical graduates more than to any section of the University, as it is in different departments of natural philosophy that an enormous increase of work has been coincident with an equal depreciation in income. One of the most remarkable features connected with the history of the University has been the rapid development of the medical school and the ancillary schools of anatomy and physiology, and now that it has become apparent under what grave pecuniary stress so much admirable work has been accomplished we are certain that the medical profession, whether connected with the University or not, will see that Cambridge has justified beforehand and fully any claim that it may make upon the public for relief. The medical profession may well bring their influence to bear on the public mind in favour of a generous response, should the letters of the Duke

¹ Archiv für Klinische Chirurgie, 1891 and 1893.

¹ THE LANCET, April 24th, 1897.