

alluded to last week; viz. the inflammable nature of etherous vapour. Should this agent be employed by careless persons during candle light, it may, from its highly inflammable nature, explode; and from the consequences of that explosion it does not appear evident that the person breathing the vapour would escape—although we have heard of no accident of this kind at present.

The effect of the vapour of ether upon the system seems to be the same as that of an overpowering quantity of alcohol; and as a proof that the effects are the same under other influences, Mr. Lawrence relates a case in which he performed amputation of the leg upon a woman who was intoxicated, and who knew nothing of the matter until she became sober. There is, however, this difference between the action of alcohol and that of the vapour of ether—that with the former the stage of insensibility is preceded by a stage of nervous and vascular excitement, whilst in the latter the insensible state comes on almost immediately. In the numerous cases which have been reported, the ether appears to have had different effects upon the nervous system;—and this has probably been owing to the quantities of the vapour inhaled. Thus, in several cases the effect has been to deprive the patients of the power of feeling and moving; but they have been conscious all the time, and have witnessed every step of the operation performed on them—though without experiencing pain. In one case, this was rather ludicrously illustrated:—the patient during the operation “giving sly winks and facetious nods to those surrounding him. During the intervals of the inhalation his observations were of the most facetious character—forcing from the by-standers involuntary laughter, and converting that which was to the poor fellow a most tragic event, into a scene little short of a farce.” In other cases, consciousness is less evident,—but not wholly extinguished. One person during the extraction of a tooth imagined that he was contending with a wild beast—which he thought he had overcome when the tooth was extracted. Another, during the amputation of her leg, “thought she had been in a dream; and that we had hurt her leg to see if she could bear the operation which was to be performed the next day.” In the majority of cases, however,—and these probably where the ether has been most adroitly administered,—there has been a total loss of consciousness; and the patients on waking up from the slumber produced, have expressed their surprise not only of the operation being over, but at the apparently short time which it has occupied. Thus, in the operation related by Mr. Lawrence, the patient “expressed a fear that he had not had enough of the ether to produce the desired effect. When told the operation had been performed, he said—“Operation! operation!—what operation?”—and seemed quite puzzled.” This is, undoubtedly, the most desirable state to produce.

The question will now occur—“Are any ill effects to be apprehended from the action of this new agent?”—As far as we have seen, or been able to inquire, no after consequences have occurred to occasion any fears so long as the vapour shall be administered with proper precautions by an intelligent medical practitioner. Although the effects on the system may be compared, as we have said, with those of a large dose of alcohol, comparatively little of the excitement and consequent exhaustion dependent on the administration of the latter agent are felt with the ether:—so that no patient need have any hesitation in taking it.

There is yet another interesting field for inquiry opened up to the medical man in relation to the use of this substance: and that is as to the possibility of its use in diseases of the nervous system. We cannot but think that an agent so powerful might be applied with success in arresting some of those diseases of that system in

which narcotics are found beneficial; and if not capable of curing, it might at least assist the cure by relieving pain.—We have felt it our duty to give our readers this sketch of the history and action of this new remedial agent: in order, on the one hand, to prevent accidents and failure by its use in the management of unskilful persons—and on the other, to remove any unnecessary doubts or alarm which might be felt by those who would seek relief through its employment.

WESTMINSTER BRIDGE BUILT OF EPSOM SALTS.
—Dr. Ryan, Professor of Chemistry, in a lecture delivered at the Polytechnic Institution, before the Duke of Richmond and several of the members of the Royal Agricultural Society, in illustration of the elementary principles of chemistry, stated that magnesia lime-stone contains from twenty four to forty two per cent. of carbonate of magnesia:—from which Epsom salts are procured by the application of sulphuric acid. If Westminster Bridge, built of that rock, were covered with water and sulphuric acid, it would be converted into Epsom salts.

TO BE SOLD BY PUBLIC AUCTION.

ON Thursday the 29th day of April next, at twelve o'clock, at the Office of Asa Coy, Esquire, Queen Street, Fredericton, for the payment of the debts of the late Henry Smith, of Saint Mary's, in the County of York, Esquire, deceased, in consequence of a deficiency of the personal estate of the deceased for that purpose, pursuant to a Licence obtained from the Court of Chancery, the Lands and Premises following, that is to say:—

1st.—The upper half of lot 83, fronting on King's Street, Fredericton, 33 feet in width, under lease to John M'Sorley, at a rent of £6 per annum.

2nd.—A piece of Land in rear of the Madras School, Fredericton, 80 feet by 27.

3d.—That tract of Land in the Parish of St. Mary's, adjoining the lower side of the Monckton Grant, and known as the upper half of the Henley Gore. This tract will be sold in lots, agreeably to a plan to be seen at the office of the said Asa Coy.

Terms at Sale.

D. LUDLOW ROBINSON, *Administrator.*
Fredericton, February 23, 1847.

RAIL ROAD ROOMS,
Saint Andrews, 23d February, 1847. }

NOTICE is hereby given, That Four per cent. of the subscribed Stock in the SAINT ANDREWS AND QUEBEC RAILROAD COMPANY will be called for, and made payable at Saint Andrews on the first Tuesday in May next.

JOHN WILSON, *President.*
GEO. F. CAMPBELL, *Act'g Sec'y.*

ABSCONDING DEBTOR'S NOTICE.

PUBLIC Notice is hereby given, that a general Meeting of the Creditors of James Quinlin, late of Hopewell, in the County of Albert, Yeoman, an Absconding Debtor, is appointed to be held at the Office of Thomas B. Moore, Esquire, in Hopewell aforesaid, on Thursday the twenty ninth day of April next, at two o'clock in the afternoon; the said Creditors are requested to attend at the time and place mentioned, to examine and see the debts due by the said James Quinlin to each person ascertained.

Given under our hands at Hopewell aforesaid, the seventh day of February, A. D. 1847.

THOS. B. MOORE, } Trustees for all
GEO. A. MUNRO, } the Creditors of
ELISHA S. ROGERS, } James Quinlin.

NOTICE.

THE Co-partnership heretofore existing between the Subscribers trading in Stanley, under the style of Wigan and Main, is this day dissolved by mutual consent. All persons indebted to the said Firm, are requested to make payment to William J. Bedell & Co., Fredericton, who alone are authorized to grant discharges for same.

Fredericton, 30th December, 1846.

In presence of } THOMAS MAIN.
GEO. A. MUNRO. } LEWIS D. WIGAN.

Married.

In the Cathedral Church, by the Rev. Mr. Ketchum, on the 3d inst., Mr. Walter S. Thom, (Royal Sappers and Miners,) of Kincardine, Scotland, to Eliza, eldest surviving daughter of Mr. Donald M'Leod, of this place.
At Saint John, by the Rev. Dr. B. G. Gray, Mr. Joseph Ruddock, of the Parish of Portland, to Alice, second daughter of the late Mr. George Smith, of that City.