

interested in securing a conviction, is in our opinion unbusinesslike, and unfair to the midwives, the protection of whose interests should be the first consideration of the officials employed by their Governing Body.

### Medical Matters.

#### CHLORETONE IN SEA SICKNESS.

Dr. D. A. Welsh, M.A., Professor of Pathology in the University of Sydney, contributes an interesting note to the *Lancet* on the treatment of sea-sickness by chloretone as follows:—

One of the minor ailments which yet may cause much distress is sea-sickness, and anything which may lessen this form of misery is worth noting. On a voyage last year from Sydney to London I had occasion to test the value of chloretone (supplied as tri-chlor-tertiary-butyl alcohol) on myself and other passengers. On the way to Adelaide (August 31st) the weather was very rough and though I did not vomit I was rather miserable. In particular, when I tried to write in the saloon I became so nauseated that I was forced to stop. Being only a moderate sailor, and being anxious to finish a paper, before leaving Australia I bought in Adelaide 100 capsules of chloretone, 5 grains in each. I took 10 grains at night on September 1st, soon after leaving Adelaide, and 5 grains thrice daily on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, while crossing the Great Australian Bight. As is usual at that time of the year, the Bight was rough, and there was a strong head wind, so that the boat pitched heavily all the way across. Nevertheless, I was able to spend several hours daily writing in the saloon without the slightest feeling of nausea; I had some headache but a good appetite. I was not conscious of any hypnotic effect (my sleep being disturbed every night by the movement of the boat), nor indeed of any effect other than the abolition of nausea. But the contrast was most marked between my feeling of comparative comfort, even when writing, after I had taken chloretone, and my sensations of impending disaster when I tried to write before. August 31st and September 2nd, 3rd, and 4th were the roughest days of the whole voyage, but the Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea were by no means quiet, and I occasionally took 5 grains during the rougher weather with the result that any incipient nausea soon passed off.

On the morning of September 2nd most of the women were sick on deck. The worst was a girl about 20 years old, who was completely

prostrated and who vomited frequently. She had 10 grains, but she vomited immediately afterwards, and as I feared the capsules had gone overboard I gave her another 10 grains within half an hour of the first dose. She very soon fell asleep in her chair without being sick. She woke about noon, vomited once, but the prostration had to a large extent passed off, and she had 5 grains more. She took a little lunch and later some dinner on deck, and was not again sick until she went to her cabin for the night, when she vomited before she could get into bed. After this she had 5 grains and passed a good night. Next morning (September 3rd) she took 5 grains before rising, and three similar doses throughout the day. She was able to take all her meals on deck and was never sick. On the 4th the same treatment was carried out with like result. This was a pretty severe test, because the girl was known to be a bad sailor, because she was prostrated by sickness before treatment was begun, and because the weather was increasingly rough for three days after.

Some of the other women were also relieved of nausea by 5 or 10 grains occasionally repeated. Another young woman who joined the boat at Fremantle was very sick on deck next morning (September 6th), prostrated, and vomiting repeatedly. She took 10 grains was not sick again, and soon began to feel less miserable. A third capsule was given in about an hour, and a fourth in the afternoon; by evening she felt well enough to come to dinner in the saloon.

But the most remarkable case of all was that of a young Cingalese student who had never been to sea before, and who joined at Colombo. As soon as the boat reached open water he became acutely sea-sick, with continual vomiting and retching for nearly three days. He was unable to leave his cabin, and I did not know of his condition until the morning of the third day, when the ship's medical officer (who had in vain tried to check the sickness with the remedies at his disposal) asked if he might have some chloretone. In case vomiting should occur before the capsules were dissolved the medical officer took 10 grains of the powder alone, put it on the patient's tongue, and made him wash it down with water. The patient had vomited 14 times that morning, but after this dose he did not vomit again. Later in the day he had another 10 grains, took a little food, and rested quietly in his cabin. Next morning he was able to come on deck and to take his meals in the saloon. He had a few capsules at intervals during the rest of the voyage, and left at Marseilles without again having suffered from sea-sickness.

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