
FATAL MISTAKE AT THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL.—The *Boston Traveller* contains a long document from Dr. J. C. WARREN, in relation to a death by chloroform, accidentally administered at the Massachusetts General Hospital. It appears that chloric or sulphuric ether is used in the hospital, in preference to chloroform. Three operations were performed on Saturday, Oct. 30. The first was for a contracted hand, and the patient was etherised with what was supposed to be chloric ether. The operation was performed, and the patient escaped without any other inconvenience than a slight soreness of the throat. The second case was for a tumor on the right side of the face. During the operation the patient came very near dying, but was saved. The third case, which proved fatal, was that of a young man, about twenty years old, a native of Ireland, who had his arm entangled in the machinery of a bark mill about five days before. He refused to have it amputated until mortification had taken place. On Saturday the operation was performed. Etherisation was carefully made, and the operation was accomplished in about two minutes. Just as it was finished it was perceived that his pulse was rapidly failing. Every effort was made to save him, but the patient breathed his last without an effort or convulsion. Dr. WARREN adds:

“On the following morning an examination of the body was proposed, but his friends arriving, objected, and although we urged the importance of ascertaining the immediate cause of his death, they continued to object decidedly.

“Immediately after the occurrence of alarming symptoms in this case, it was discovered that the substance which had been used was not chloric ether, but chloroform: and not till then did we understand the extraordinary phenomena which presented themselves in this and the preceding cases. This patient died with the usual phenomena of chloroform poison.
