Correspondence

The question I should like to ask is: "Why do these cases occur, and what is the cause of it?" I shall be very grateful to any of your readers who can give me a really clear and satisfactory explanation.

I am led to write this letter, because a week or so ago I saw in the lay Press that a man had died after the extraction of teeth with gas. He had collapsed and died. That was the brief statement, but it leaves us no wiser.

In an experience of nearly twenty-five years I have only had these two cases that I now report, and I cannot but think that it would be of advantage to all of us if we could get the views and experience of some of the other anaesthetists on this topic.

Yours faithfully,

H. E. G. Boyle.

REITCHING AND VOMITING.

To the Editor.

We would like to get some information as to retching and vomiting—during and following anaesthesia and from other causes. Do you know of any studies that have been made?

From our experience two interesting items are worthy of mention:

(1) In over 1,000 anaesthesias with N₂O-C₂H₄-O₂ we have never experienced retching or vomiting during an anaesthesia. With N₂O and O₂ or N₂O-C₂H₄-O₂, although not frequent, retching and vomiting did occur.

(2) In the last 16 cases, eight of whom had eaten a meal within two hours before taking the anaesthetic, there was no retching or vomiting after the anaesthesia. The technique was the same as that described in our paper except that the induction was commenced with N₂O alone, eight to fifteen breaths (no O₂). Period of anaesthesia three to sixteen minutes.

Thank you, in advance, for whatever help you can give us.

Sincerely,

A. & J. D. Goldman,
63 W. 48th Street, New York City.

Dr. I. M. Rabinowitch, Director of the Department of Metabolism at the Montreal General Hospital, who contributed an important article in our July Number, has been appointed an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Medicine, McGill University.