

(1902, 117, October.)

1. The Influence of the Galvanic Current upon Muscular Force. SCHNYDER.
2. The Production of Sleep and of Local and General Anesthesia by Intermittent Low-Tension Currents. STÉPHANE LEDUC.
3. A New Form of the Electrolytic Interrupter.
4. Radioscopy and Radiography of the Abdominal Organs. A BÉCLÈRE.
5. On Surgical Electrolysis and Galvano-Cautistics. TH. GUILLOZ.

1. *Galvanism and Muscular Force*.—From his results the author concludes that "Voltaic electrification of the vertebral column exerts a favorable influence upon muscular force, which is manifested less by the increase in work expressed in kilogrammeters than by the modifications produced in the form of the fatigue curves. By the greater number of ordinates and by their more gradual descent, the S-like form of the curve very strongly points to the preceding fact. But this favorable influence upon muscular force is produced not by electric stimulation only. Another stimulus, acting under similar conditions, such as a sinapism, has nearly the same influence upon muscular force."

2. *Production of Sleep, etc.*—An experimental research upon the lower animals in which the negative electrode is applied to the head and the broad positive to the back. A very rapidly interrupted continuous current of an E. M. F. of 16-30 volts is applied for a short time, the voltage being rapidly reduced. The author finds that it is possible to produce by interrupted low tension currents painless, instantaneous and complete inhibition of the cerebral hemispheres in animals, while the respiratory and circulatory centers are unaffected. Thus one produces a quiet and regular sleep that can be prolonged for several hours, and a general and complete anesthesia. Sleep occurs or disappears rapidly accordingly as the circuit is closed or opened. No after-effect follows the sleep. Prolonged and repeated sleep produces no apparent change in health.

3. *Electrolytic Interrupter*.—An illustrated description of a modified Wehuet interrupter for use with alternating currents.

4. *Radioscopy of Abdominal Organs*.—A lengthy detailed paper devoted to the radioscopy and radiography of all the various organs of the abdomen and thorax. The author concludes that the X-ray method of examination constitutes an exceptional means for the investigation of the nervous system, a very valuable method for the abdominal organs which is particularly applicable for finding urinary calculi, and is a very admirable method for the physical examination of the thoracic organs. It is destined to rank in current practical medicine with auscultation and percussion, and to occupy in time a more important place.

5. *On Electrolysis*.—A lengthy paper unsuitable for abstraction, that discusses electrolysis in its physical aspects and in its therapeutical applications.

R. H. CUNNINGHAM.

## MISCELLANY.

REPORT OF A CASE OF PROGRESSIVE MUSCULAR ATROPHY (SPINAL) WITH MENTAL SYMPTOMS. R. Edward Garrett (Maryland Med. Jour., Oct., 1902).

Subject of report female, fifty-three years old. Patient for seven months at Maryland Hospital for the Insane. Symptoms at date of admission not sufficiently marked to justify positive diagnosis of progressive muscular atrophy. Has chronic nephritis. No hereditary predisposition. No luetic nor rheumatic history. Slight transitory pains about chest and shoulders. Case one of "upper arm type" with pronounced atrophy of muscles of trunk, particularly of arms, shoulders and chest. No changes observed in the legs. Feet and ankles edematous. Protrusion of head for-

ward. Characteristic kyphotic attitude. No paralysis, but considerable weakness of affected muscles. No disturbance of speech, nor loss of control of sphincters. Gait normal. Patellar reflex absent. Pupils equal, reacting to light and accommodation. No optic nerve changes. No bulbar symptoms. At times choreiform movements of upper and lower extremities. Fibrillary tremor not detected. Mental symptoms considered to be part of the general disease, due to extension of spinal lesion to the brain. Patient feeble-minded, forgetful, unable to concentrate the attention. Vocabulary reduced to a few words. Mental impressions retarded.

J. E. CLARK (New York).

THE BLOOD, FROM A CLINICAL ASPECT. J. G. Emanuel (The Birmingham Med. Rev., June, 1901).

In tuberculous meningitis there is generally a leucocytosis. Given a doubtful case of typhoid or tuberculous meningitis, a raised count would negative uncomplicated typhoid and would be in favor of tuberculous meningitis.

J. E. CLARK (New York).

A CASE OF PRIMARY PNEUMOCOCCUS MENINGITIS SIMULATING PUERPERAL ECLAMPSIA. Thomas Wilson and J. G. Emanuel (Birmingham Med. Rev., April, 1902).

The authors report an interesting case of pneumococcus meningitis, with autopsy, which had been previously diagnosed puerperal eclampsia. The patient, multipara, six to seven months pregnant, admitted to the Birmingham General Hospital in a comatose condition. For several days had complained of headache, followed by convulsive seizures and unconsciousness. Albumin and sugar present. No edema. Heart and lungs negative. Death on fifth day after onset. Post-mortem examination disclosed a purulent meningitis due to pneumococcus infection. Brain 41 ounces by weight. Surfaces of cerebrum, cerebellum, pons and medulla covered with purulent exudate. No changes observed in gray or white tissue upon gross section. Ventricles normal as to distention. No signs of tubercle, middle ear disease nor pneumonia. No septic focus. Bacteriological examination of exudate revealed diplococci resembling Fraenkel's pneumococci. Glycosuria was attributed to the meningitis in association with an enlarged and fatty liver.

J. E. CLARK (New York).

MENTAL DISTURBANCE DURING THE PUERPERIUM. W. H. Hattie (Montreal Med. Jour., Sept., 1902).

Ten per cent. of females admitted during past three years at Nova Scotia Hospital for treatment of "so-called" puerperal insanity. The writer, while allowing due consideration for inherited predisposition, believes that a large proportion of cases result from causes (toxic or infectious) which are generally preventable at this period. Prophylaxis in respect to the maintenance of healthy bodily nutrition, avoidance, so far as possible, of nervous stress, antiseptics, *etc.*, are recommended.

J. E. CLARK (New York).

THE BLOOD IN CERTAIN CUTANEOUS, NERVOUS AND MISCELLANEOUS DISEASES, WITH REMARKS UPON THE ORIGIN AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE EOSINOPHILES. Thomas R. Brown (Maryland Med. Jour., July, 1902).

In twelve observations, upon two cases of chorea, the writer states the total number of leucocytes was normal in every case, while the eosinophiles varied between 5.2 and 9.5 per cent., that is, there was always a distinct, and on some occasions a definite increase in these cells. In connection with Neusser's views, that "the supply of eosinophile cells in the blood is controlled by the sympathetic nervous system, and eosinophilia is the expression of sympathetic nervous irritation," the above is of especial interest. In three observations, on three cases of angio-neurotic edema, both leucocyte count, and percentage of eosinophiles, were practically normal. While