

tain cases, and if its activity is unimpaired it is capable of exercising important influence upon the digestive process when properly administered. —*Albany Medical Annals*, 1898, No. 3, p. 162.

The Treatment of Chronic Enteritis.—DR. E. P. HERSHEY reaches the following conclusions: This is an affection impossible to overcome just so long as irritation continues. This irritation is due mainly to fermentative changes brought about by pathological conditions in the intestinal glands, resulting in vitiated secretions. The prevention of excessive fermentation takes away the irritation and allows the uninterrupted restoration of the glands affected. This result is best accomplished by means of a remedy that will act locally upon the glands and will prevent excessive fermentation. The two best-known remedies for this purpose are benzonal and bismuth tetrachlorophenol-phthaleinate, the latter having the advantage over the former that it persists in being a local remedy in the intestinal canal, whereas the former, though acting locally, liberates benzoic acid in sufficient quantities to become sooner or later a renal irritant. Finally, the latter remedy is one well worthy of a thorough trial in the treatment of typhoid fever. —*Western Medical and Surgical Gazette*, 1898, No. 4, p. 203.

The Therapeutic Value of Spleen Extract.—DR. A. CAMPBELL CLARK states, in brief, that this substance aids digestion and nutrition, increases the cutaneous circulation, and stimulates the glandular activity of the skin. In a series of patients suffering from most intractable conditions—chronic inertia, mental and physical—treatment lasting over a year resulted in no mental improvement in several, slight in a few, and recovery in a few male cases. In another series, including recent instances of insanity—the mental breakdown being due to physical exhaustion, patients suffering from prolonged lactation, puerperal weakness, anemia, anorexia, and nervous exhaustion—the results were more prompt and decided in the majority, not only physically, but soon after mentally, some being restored completely, while of a greater number it could only be said that they were improved. The results as to special points were as follows: (1) Pulse and temperature. The character of the radial pulse, as judged by sphygmographic tracings, taken before and several times during treatment, has not yet been definitely determined. In this investigation they point rather toward a lowering of blood-pressure than the reverse; but they do this in no decided manner. There is no doubt that it increases the pulse-rate from 5 to 15 per cent, and raises the temperature from 2° to 1° in the majority of cases. (2) Appetite and digestion. In some the appetite was improved; in many more digestion improved, without any relish for food. This is probably due to the fact that this substance is rather nauseating to some. In some instances increased salivation has been noticed. (3) Bowels and urine. In a few instances it appeared that the bowels were more active than formerly; in others no change was observed. Further attention should be directed to the urine. (4) Weight. While rise of weight in some instances was phenomenal, in others it was very moderate. One positive fact came out clearly, namely, that increase in weight, however slight, was the rule, and the exceptions were very few. (5) Blood. The results have been inconclusive in the case

of male patients, with two remarkable exceptions; but on the female side positive improvement was more uniformly observed. This is probably due to the fact that their blood was poorer to start with, and hence the improvement was more manifest. (6) Effect on skin and hair. Increased color and warmth of skin have been noted, also softness and elasticity; in some a slight oily feel, in others a moist condition, due evidently to gentle perspiration. It is not merely a case of determination of blood to the skin, for it is quite clear that there is also an increase of secretory activity. The increased warmth probably accounts for the slight increase of axillary temperature. In almost all the patients the change in the face has been most noticeable; rubbing the skin of patients who previously showed little or no reaction is followed by a glow of warmth and color. Improved complexion was noticed in pale, cold, anæmic women, in women with dry, sallown skins, and in pale-faced men. No conclusions have been arrived at regarding the hair, but thus far the results are rather positive and favorable than negative. (7) Mental effects. It would be premature to say that we have here a direct brain stimulant, for the data are still insufficient and may prove elusive; but there can be no question of this, that mental changes, sometimes of an abnormal character, form striking incidents in the course of treatment. Exhibition of temper was quite noticeable in both sexes, but much more in the male sex; and it seemed, in several male adolescents who had lapsed into stupor, that this drug had an awakening influence. The most potent preparation was an emulsion of the ethereal extract, of which each fluidrachm represented five grains of extract. The largest dose was one drachm four times daily.—*Edinburgh Medical Journal*, 1898, No. 512, p. 152.

In a second paper the author emphasizes the importance of taking the remedy on an empty stomach half an hour before meals. While there may yet be reasonable doubt as to the manner in which spleen extract acts physiologically, and much conjecture as to the particular class of mental cases that should be submitted for this treatment, it is evident that its action on the male sex is somewhat different from its action on the female sex. The male adolescent seems to be particularly susceptible to the action of this remedy. It may be that the spleen extract, in addition to other effects, has a direct influence on the sexual centres, and through them excites emotional disturbance; but whatever the explanation, the fact remains that several male adolescents put under this treatment in this asylum—all of them lethargic and stuporose—have shown a marked reaction of a mental character. In several cases this has taken the form of mental excitement, sometimes attended with hallucinations; in one case the mental excitement was severe, impulsive, and violent; in another it was that of exaltation, with chatty irrelevancy, and perfect good nature, and along with it there was exaltation of appetite and an increase in weight. In others there has been a mild excitement, with occasional spurts of irritability and displays of temper. These results have been obtained not infrequently in the case of patients who had been addicted to self-abuse, but in whom the habit was suspended owing to nervous exhaustion. It has not been found that the habit was again resorted to under the influence of spleen treatment, except in one case, which afterward recovered. Taking all the male cases together, one cannot resist the conviction that spleen extract is potent as a mental agent as well as a