

the food, the iron necessary for the formation of hemoglobin had to be obtained from the liver and from other organs of the body where hemoglobin and iron were deposited. If iron was withheld from the food too long the blood, and finally the body tissues, lost their hemoglobin and the animal died apparently from profound anemia. Dr. Aperti found from careful chemical analysis that when the period of profound anemia and of grave exhaustion had been reached the iron in the liver was greatly reduced, so that the amount in this organ fell as that contained in the spleen and muscles, while the amounts in all three organs were considerably below those in the organs of healthy animals. In animals rendered slightly anemic by bleeding or by withdrawing all iron from the food the administration of arsenic caused a very considerable increase in the number of red corpuscles, but none in the amount of hemoglobin. Injections of iron now caused a very striking increase in the hemoglobin, the amount almost doubling itself in seven days, rising in this time from fifty to ninety-five per cent. Repeated experiments gave the results and confirmed the belief that the two substances act differently, and that while the arsenic increases the number of red corpuscles the iron increases the total quantity of hemoglobin. A rational basis is thus afforded for the therapeutic use of these drugs.—*The Lancet*.

Arterial Sclerosis.

Local sclerosis are but the beginning of general sclerosis, always to be found by those who look for it. The chief characteristics of syphilitic sclerosis are: (1) It is nodular and not diffuse. (2) It has a tendency to invade portions only of a vessel wall. (3) Its onset is usually chronic. (4) The points of attack in order of frequency are: (a) Cerebral arteries; (b) aorta, especially ascending portion of arch; (c) arteries of heart; (d) arteries of pericardium. (5) It has a tendency to obliterate vessels. (6) It has a tendency to form aneurisms. (7) In analogy with tuberculosis it has a tendency to obliterate arteries, to form aneurisms, and to become localized.—*Dr. C. A. Penrose, Johns Hopkins Hospital Bulletin*.

Lumbar Cord Cocainization.

Medullary narcosis seems to be winning its way to popularity with the rapidity with which a new idol gains in favor. It is to be hoped the dangers of the method will not be ignored. There has been at least one death already reported from cocainization of the lumbar cord. Bier reports a list of unpleasant symptoms that may go on for eight days after the cocainization.—*The Medical Age*.