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SELECTED ARTICLES.

INTESTINAL HYDROTHERAPY : METHODS AND USES.

Paper read before New York Academy
of Medicine.

Dr. Robert Coleman Kemp read a paper on this subject. He said that, correctly speaking, hydrotherapy included the internal as well as the external use of water. Internal hydrotherapy was the employment of water in the intestinal tract for therapeutic purposes. Referring to the use of hot water irrigation, the statement was made that in shock there was a vasomotor palsy, and the proper balance between the forces of inhibition and acceleration on the heart was lost. The hot injections aided (1) in restoring the proper tone of the vasomotor centres and the balance between the forces governing the heart action; (2) the heart action was also aided by the filling up of the blood-vessels; (3) the heat centres were stimulated; (4) the temperature of the blood was increased; and (5) the tone of the sweat centres was restored.

EXPERIMENTS ON ANIMALS.

Dr. Kemp said that last year he had conducted a series of experiments on dogs, to determine the action of hot and cold irrigations with the double-current catheter. Each dog received about one and one-half grains of morphine, and occasionally a small quantity of ether, and a manometer was applied to one of the arteries. Then the

intestine was irrigated with decinormal saline solution for ten or fifteen minutes, and the result noted. From these experiments it was learned that, if a moderate increase in the pulse tension was not objectionable, a temperature of 105 deg. to 108 deg. F. could be employed; but if a higher blood pressure was desired, the temperature of the fluid should be 110 deg. to 120 deg. F. Cold irrigation (90 deg. to 60 deg. F.), if kept up for twenty minutes or more, weakened the heart. The hot irrigations were excellent in shock, or before or during an operation to prevent shock, or in chloroform narcosis to prevent contraction of the vessels. Could this be employed with caution, for idiosyncrasies to cold were more often presented than were those to heat.

IN SHOCK FROM HEMORRHAGE.

A strong dog was bled until almost exsanguinated. The blood pressure was then found to have fallen from one hundred and fifty-five to one hundred and twelve millimetres.

Double-current irrigation with decinormal saline solution was then employed, and the temperature of the fluid gradually raised to 120 deg. F. In ten minutes the blood pressure had risen to 140 deg. F., and the heart was acting with fair force.

EFFECT ON BODY TEMPERATURE.

The dogs were treated as before. In some of the animals clinical thermometers were inserted in the iliac arteries, and in others in the internal carotid. Incisions were made