

at one time suggesting asphyxia, and at others organic vascular or nervous lesions of the brain and spinal cord. The results of experiments upon animals show that dogs are most sensitive to the passage of the current, and that death may be due to asphyxia from prolonged muscular tetanus, to primary cardiac failure of the respiratory system, or to the two latter combined. Grave nervous symptoms may also manifest themselves in animals exposed to currents of high voltage. In human beings the element of shock plays an important part, though actual death generally takes place from primary heart failure, due to fibrillation, from failure of the respiratory system, or to gross nervous lesions following at a later period. It is pointed out that the degree of danger depends on many other factors than mere voltage of current. Alternating currents are, *cæcibus paribus*, more dangerous than continuous. Practically, wetness of the skin of the hands or feet is a factor of very great importance, for when the extremities are dry, conductors carrying currents of 500 volts may be touched with impunity. Artificial respiration still remains the best mode of treatment in cases of apparent death from electric currents, and this should be persisted in until it is *certain* that death has occurred.—*Medical Press and Circular*.

THE FRIEDMANN TREATMENT FOR TUBERCULOSIS: ITS INVESTIGATION BY THE UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

On March 8 the Secretary of the Treasury, on the recommendation of the Surgeon-General of the Public Health Service, caused a board of medical officers to be detailed to make a thorough investigation of Dr. Friedmann's alleged cure for tuberculosis.

These officers proceeded immediately to New York and arranged with Dr. Friedmann for demonstrations of his remedy upon persons suffering from tuberculosis. These demonstrations are being carried on in certain New York hospitals through the courtesy of their respective authorities, and will be continued until sufficient information has been obtained for the forming of an opinion as to the merits of the treatment.

Dr. Friedmann has submitted to the Board a culture of the bacteria which he states are used in his method of treatment. In addition to the observation of persons under treatment by Dr. Friedmann, the Board of Officers will make experiments to ascertain whether this culture is, as Dr. Friedmann claims, harmless to warm-blooded animals.