

1. **Central Galvanism.**—This may be applied to the spinal cord or to the brain. In the former case, the patient is seated upon a large positive electrode, while the negative electrode is moved up and down the spinal column.

The latter form (cerebral galvanism) requires considerable care in its application to avoid unpleasant or even dangerous consequences. Large electrodes are used, and are firmly fixed to the forehead and the nape of the neck; they must be symmetrical as regards the midline, otherwise vertigo will be produced. The hair must be thoroughly wetted with warm saline solution (the electric hot-air douche is convenient for drying this after treatment is completed). The patient reclines on a couch, and must avoid all movement during, or for a few minutes after, treatment. The frontal electrode is made the cathode, and the current is turned on and off very slowly and evenly. Any sudden increase or decrease will have most unpleasant and alarming results. The application should last for ten minutes at the first sitting, and be gradually increased to half an hour. The patient will rarely support a current of more than 5 to 6 ma., but 10 to 15 ma. should be aimed at.

If the polarity is reversed (positive to forehead), a feeling of heaviness, slowness of thought, and somnolence is produced, which contrasts unfavourably with the sense of well-being and mental acuity which result from the polarity here recommended.

Cerebral galvanism is of great value in many conditions, as will be plain from the consideration of the controlling action of the central nervous system over all the functions of the organism. The following are given as types of cases when this treatment is indicated, or worthy of a trial.

(1) Ill-developed and backward children, whether