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BIER TREATMENT—HYPEREMIA AS A THERAPEUTIC AGENT.*

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Von Bier has endeavored during the last sixteen years to imitate Nature's methods for the cure of certain diseases by the artificial production of hyperemia in the diseased area. In the introduction to his book, "Hyperæmia—Als Heilmittel," he states, "No reaction to foreign substances of any kind occurs without hyperemia, be that substance a crude foreign body or a minute bacterium, or strong chemical poison; therefore, I may assert: There is no lesion which the body tries to, and is capable of, removing or rendering harmless that produces anemia; it is always accompanied or surrounded by hyperemia." If we, therefore, accept the reactions of the body as useful efforts of nature, we must admit that hyperemia is the most widespread of all auto-curative agents. Now, if we observe how nature works, we learn that, while it produces in all important processes of the body a local hyperemia in the parts concerned, the same is produced as frequently by a slowing as by an acceleration of the blood current.

Differences of the utmost importance, physically as well as chemically, exist between the rapidly flowing stream of arterial blood and the sluggish one of more venous blood.

Von Bier employs two varieties of local hyperemia—venous, or passive, and arterial, or active.

* Read before the Academy of Medicine, Toronto.