

Charcot invented an apparatus for the purpose of producing mechanical vibration. He had observed that some cases of tabes dorsalis and disseminated sclerosis were apparently benefited by railway travelling. The instrument he devised is in two forms, one in the shape of a helmet to fit the head and the other in the form of a round cylinder which can be applied to any part of the body. The mechanical affect of vibration is produced by an electro-motor. Good results have followed the use of these instruments in some cases of functional headaches and nervous vomiting.

Electricity is also used for cauteries, lamps, motors and numerous other appliances, which need not be especially mentioned.

In the preceding pages only a very rapid survey of the subject of medical electricity has been presented, but sufficient has been said to put before you the important facts without entering too much into the regions of speculation. Much has yet to be done in this department. The work at present being done is mainly on the line of preparing standardized apparatus in order that recorded results may be of value for comparison. One of the great difficulties at present is establishing a constant system of dosage. At present with our imperfect apparatus we can only determine the amount of electricity, which is rendered effective, in the roughest possible manner. But before long, it is to be expected, this will be remedied. One important thing in the employment of electricity in medicine should not be forgotten. It is not to try electrical treatment in cases that are not suitable for it. It is far better to apply this remedy to the class of diseases in which it is confessedly of some value than to attempt to force its application in unsuitable cases.