

Such are a few of the main observations Bier has made in cases of cellulitis, joint infection, acute osteomyelitis, and tendon sheath phlegmon. As a result of Bier's success, and of others who have followed out his directions, our ideas of the harmfulness of congestion must be modified. We have been accustomed to regard pain as the result of hyperemia, but we now see it relieved by congestion. The explanation is to be found in the fact that pain is produced by the irritation of the peripheral nerves by concentrated exudates, and that artificial congestion dilutes these exudates and in addition acts similarly to Schleich's infiltration. The antibacterial action is accounted for by the fact that in the treated part there is an increase in alkalies and carbonic acid, both in the blood and lymph; that there is a marked local increase in the number of leucocytes, and probably an increase in the alexins (enzymes). It has also been noted that there is a marked increase in the excretion of purin bodies in cures so treated which indicates a breaking up of numberless leucocytes. It has also been found that vessels which were full of leucocytes became dilated and the cells less numerous. Besides the analgesic and the antibacterial activity of localized oedemas we have a nutritive and a resorptive influence inherent in the process. In the stimulation of the periosteum we have an example of the nutritive, while in the loosening up of old adhesions we have instances of the latter.

ROBERT J. MILLER, JR., M.D. "The Results of Operative Treatment of Varicose Veins of the Leg by the Methods of Trendelenburg and Schede." *Bulletin, Johns Hopkins Hosp.*, September, 1906.

Varicose veins of the leg are not an incident of senility, the condition is rather a disease of young and middle aged individuals, over one-third of the cases appearing before the 20th year, and two-thirds before the 40th year. From an aetiological standpoint there are two classes, inflammatory and non-inflammatory. The former group included about one-third of all cases, phlebitis occurring as a complication sequel of pregnancy, post-operative convalescence or an acute infection, among which typhoid fever is the most frequent. The pathology of the non-inflammatory group is obscure. In 128 cases the right and left legs are affected in about equal proportion; over one-half of the cases are bilateral. Trendelenburg's operation cured 78 per cent. in a series of 41 cases; this is about the result generally reported. In the first four post-operative years 89 per cent. were cured; in the fifth to eighth years but 63 per cent. remained cured; the tendency to recurrence increases as the post-operative period lengthens. Schede's operation