

has recently been abandoned. The important point is, that by the action of the electric current, we modify the electric state of the nerve, and the properties of the sensory or motor nerves reappear, and perform their regular part in the economy. There, by the influence of currents, nutrition is sure to improve the vitality of the tissues stimulated to renewed energy, brought about by a direct action on the trophic nerves, and on the tissue molecules of the organism, whose vitality is thus summoned into increased activity.

Alexander James, M.D. (Edinburgh, British Medical Association), in his paper on the Clinical Varieties of Hepatic Cirrhosis, stated "that the effect of an irritant on living tissue is increased metabolic activity, and the effect of increased metabolic activity is the sacrifice of growth and development to reproduction."

The systemic condition on which I now base these observations, is in cases of diminished metabolic activity in the *neurons*, prior to a sacrifice of growth and development, as after that stage, little if any influence in an electric method can be exercised. Fully aware of the doubt and uncertainty of biological problems, and while seeking for the explanation of certain functional disturbances, these few facts have been noted.

The alimentary canal and its disturbances, have within the past few years, attracted more than ordinary attention. The impression is gaining ground, that various manifestations of disease may arise through the absorption of toxic substances from within the canal. The arguments in favour of the toxæmic origin of intestinal disturbance are not sufficiently clear, owing to the absence of clinical data based on the pathological conditions involved. The important fact announced in 1880 by Baumann, that the various aromatic substances formed within the intestine, such as indol, phenol, cresol, etc., produced by "*anaerobic bacteria*" upon proteids, are passed off by the body, when absorbed through the urine, in combination with sulphuric acid in the form of ethereal sulphates (Herter, *N. Y. Medical Journal*, July, 1895). This fact forms the basis of the study of *intestinal putrifaction*, on which line of chemical research, this subject requires much careful enquiry. The frequency of perityphlitis is an acknowledged fact, and the discovery by Salkowski, of pathological quantities of *indican* in connection with that disease, leads to a line of investigation of much interest. The symptoms which usually direct attention to the alimentary canal, are often so slight as to readily escape notice, while at the same time, the constitutional results may be well defined. The following cases are presented as an illustration of clinical manifestations occurring in individuals with whom intestinal indigestion and neurotic disturbance were prominent factors.