

moved, and on closer examination it was noticed that the rectum communicated with the bladder at the trigone vesicale by a small opening not more than one-sixteenth of an inch in diameter. It might be stated that the sister of Mrs. O—, was delivered of a still-born child with no anus, besides having had another child with congenital deformities.

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### Selections: Medicine.

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#### MEYER ON PAINFUL PRESSURE-POINTS.

Dr. Moritz Meyer (*Berlin. Klin. Woch.*, No. 31, 1881 has already called attention (*ibid.*, No. 51, 1875) to the indications for galvanic treatment obtained from the presence of painful pressure-spots along the spine. In the present paper, he re-states and illustrates this point, and extends his statement to pressure-spots discoverable along the whole course of the trunks and branches of nerves.

The first case adduced is that of no less a patient than Professor Westphal himself, who, in May, 1880, had an attack of neuralgia in the right arm and shoulder. Dr Meyer discovered a painful pressure-point at the upper part of the brachial plexus. An anode of ten cells was applied to it, and within five minutes the pain had considerably subsided. The repetition of the operation four times during the ensuing week was sufficient to effect a complete cure. In the next two cases, the result of the treatment is the more striking, that previously the patients had been subjected to galvanic treatment on the usual system.

A girl, aged fourteen, had for the last nine months suffered from severe pains in the fourth interosseous space of the right hand, extending upwards along the radial nerve, to the posterior edge of the deltoid. Most movements of the arm had become impossible. The galvanic current had been applied to the hand and forearm during several weeks. Dr. Meyer discovered a limited tender spot in the brachial plexus. The anode was applied over it, with the immediate result of enabling the patient to write a few words. Every successive application determined further progress; and, after the

seventeenth, the patient was considered well. Subsequently, after excessive writing, there was a slight relapse, which rapidly gave way to the same treatment.

Another patient aged nineteen, in consequence of an injury to the head of the ulna, for which she had worn a plaster bandage for six weeks, had, during two years, suffered from neuralgia in the ulnar nerve, which deprived her of the use of the arm. Every kind of treatment, including galvanism locally applied, had failed to give any relief. A tender spot was found at the lower part of the brachial plexus; and the treatment was accordingly conducted as in the previous case. Very soon the pain diminished, and the patient began to be able to extend and abduct the little finger. After twenty applications, she was able to paint, play the piano, etc. Writing was still difficult, and the treatment was persevered in for another series of thirty applications, when she had practically recovered.

The following cases illustrate the indicative importance of pressure-points for galvanic treatment in other neuroses.

A patient aged twenty-seven, had suffered for nine years, from sick headache. The attacks were very frequent, chiefly in the left side. There was tenderness over the upper cervical transverse processes. The positive pole, of six elements, was applied to the corresponding side, for three minutes. Thirty-five such applications, spread over three months, relieved her completely. A slight relapse, after undue excitement and exertion, was overcome by a repetition of the treatment. There has been no relapse for the last four years.

A banker, aged thirty, became affected with twitching on the right side of the face. Pressure on the third and fourth cervical transverse processes was painful, and arrested the twitching. Two courses of anodal galvanisation of the spots, successfully relieved the patient, who has been free from any symptom for the last twelve months.

In a third patient a fall downstairs, two years previously, produced injury to the right scapular region; this was followed by a neuralgic condition of the shoulder and arm, with difficulty of breathing. Dr. Meyer found the