

general sway. *Contraria contrariis* and *similia similibus* have ceased among scientifically cultivated men to be a universal guide of therapeutic action. The biologically fundamental principle of Pflüger and Arndt namely that "minute stimuli excite to vital activity, stimuli of medium strength favor it, strong stimuli inhibit it, strongest abolish it, it being, however, always an individual matter whether a given stimulus will prove to be feeble or one of medium strength or maximal," associated with the Ritter-Valli law that "diseased organs are in a state of heightened excitability" has been made by Oscar Schulz the basis of his organotherapy. Very valuable as the concept appears to be, medical men, with a caution born of experience, will be loathe to accept it or any other generalization as an all-sufficient maxim.

The revival of organotherapy or opotherapy as the French designate it, is a marked feature of present treatment. One of the oldest methods, having been employed long before the Christian era, opotherapy began with an attempt to produce an aphrodisiac effect by administering the genital organs of the respective sex to the individual who required stimulation. It is rather curious that the present revival was inaugurated by Brown-Sequard, the composition of whose elixir vitæ you know. Organotherapy has, however, this time a rational basis in the conception of an internal secretion deduced by Brown-Sequard from the studies of Claude Bernard. The production of experimental cachexia thyreopriva and the bringing of the proof that the transplanted thyroid would save an animal from the disease suggested the possibility of the use of thyroid substance in myxoedema and cretinism with the marvellous results which most practitioners have by this time been permitted to observe. The chemical analyses of Baumann showed that an iodine compound in the normal thyroid is an important element in the gland.

This *Parenchym-safttherapie*, as Virchow designates it, is obviously a substitution-therapy—a restoration to the diseased body of chemical substances, the removal of which from the normal body gives rise to symptoms of disease. It is in atrophic conditions of the gland that the therapy is valuable. Myxoedema and cretinism are diseases which correspond to the "altruistic atrophy" of Hansemann, while Basedow's disease is believed by many to be an example of "altruistic hypertrophy." Had the principle underlying thyroid therapy been earlier recognized we should not have expected benefit from the administration of thyroid extract in hypertrophic conditions of the glands.

The French are busy testing the effects of thyroid therapy on the healing of fractured bones. The experimentation is still in progress, and it is too early yet to say much regarding it.