

Bier's Passive Hyperaemia

It may be remembered that Bier's method of hyperaemic congestion has been used successfully in the treatment of writer's cramp, cases being recorded by Dr. Bucciante and by Dr. Hartenberg. Dr. Migliaccio has now published the report of a case of alcoholic tremors which he was able to completely relieve by the same method of treatment. The patient was a workman aged fifty, who had been addicted to alcoholic excess for a long while, and was suffering from severe gastric dyspepsia. One day in the course of his work he was taken with an acute pain at the level of the left radiocarpal joint (the patient was left-handed). Under appropriate treatment this pain disappeared in the course of a month, but left a tremor of the hand, which increased on voluntary movement. The whole condition—the tremor and the gastritis—was undoubtedly of alcoholic origin. Special diet and total abstention from alcohol were prescribed, and at the same time the tremors of the hand were treated by Bier's method. Already after six applications, each of which was of about 1½ hours' duration, there was marked improvement, which continued to increase after each successive séance, so that at the end of a month's treatment the patient was completely cured of these tremors. The rapidity of the improvement and the progress taking place *pari passu* with the applications proved beyond doubt, at any rate to the mind of the author, that the cure was actually due to the passive hyperaemia and not simply to the special diet and abstention from alcohol.—*The Hospital*.

The Metabolism of Myasthenia Gravis with a Suggestion Regarding Treatment. PEMBERTON. *Amer. Journ. Med. Sci.*

Though the clinical aspect of this disease has received a good deal of attention, little has been adduced regarding its etiology or pathology. Spriggs has examined the nitrogenous metabolism and creatinin output in various cases of muscular loss of function and believes creatinin to be a product of the internal metabolism of muscle, not of its contraction. In myasthenia gravis he finds the creatinin output diminished, suggesting a condition of disturbed muscle metabolism.

In the case here described, some investigations as to metabolism were carried out, the total nitrogen, ammonia, creatinin, calcium and magnesium of the urine being determined while the faeces were examined for total nitrogen, calcium and magnesium.