

BIER'S HYPEREMIC TREATMENT, WITH DEMONSTRATION OF TECHNIQUE.*

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CZERNY, of Heidelberg, in presenting Bier with the Kussmaul Prize, in August last, ranked the hyperemic treatment with Lister's discovery of antiseptics.

Although incredulous at first, surgeons have now adopted the method, and apply it in most hospitals abroad.

Willy Meyer says: "Experience has shown that this conservative treatment is by far the best means at our disposal for tuberculous joints and bones. I consider it the duty of every medical man to study, and thoroughly to master, the principle of Bier's Hyperemic Treatment, in order to bestow on his patients the great and manifold benefits of this truly wonderful discovery."

Rokitansky observed that, in hypertrophy of the heart or distortions of the spine, which produced hyperemia, or brown induration of the lungs, pulmonary tuberculosis is extinct, or does not occur. On the other hand, it had been noticed by Farre, Travers and others that, in pulmonary stenosis, causing anemia of the lungs, phthisis was usually found present at post-mortem.

From these observations, Bier was led to try the effect of an increased supply of blood to all tubercular foci.

In all efforts of the body to resist disease or injury, hyperemia is present. There are two forms of hyperemia—active, or arterial, and passive, or venous, hyperemia.

In treating acute surgical infections, Bier says we are to break with all our former iron-clad rules regarding the treatment of these affections, and in place of opposing its phenomena by rest, elevation, pressure, cold, incisions and drainage, he tells us they are the wise provisions of nature, to be encouraged and increased.

Meyer says he has demonstrated, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that his method is far superior to those formerly in vogue.

Notzel demonstrated the beneficial effects of hyperemia. He inoculated 67 rabbits with fatal doses of anthrax, and succeeded in keeping alive 51 by hyperemia. A few weeks later these animals succumbed to the same doses when the hyperemia was not used.

Various theories are advanced to explain this fact, but Bier prefers to generalize and believe hyperemia merely assists the natural inflammatory action when it has not been sufficient. It causes rapid cicatrization of granulation tissue and encapsulates bacteria.

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