

the hyperæmia, but are merely phases of the disease, which are just as liable to appear with other methods of treatment.

When the treatment was in its experimental stage, cold abscesses were frequent, and were predisposed to by the long application of the bandage, and by the extreme œdema which was caused thereby. These abscesses were allowed to grow larger, and were treated by aspiration and injection of glycerine-iodoform emulsion. The results were very discouraging. Now, however, with the daily application of the bandage, for only one hour at a time, abscesses have occurred less frequently, and when they do present, are opened as early as possible. If in doubt as to the presence of pus in a fluctuating or pseudo-fluctuating spot, it is better to incise it, even if no pus be found, than to make the mistake of allowing it to grow larger, for early evacuation of these abscesses gives an infinitely better result. In his treatment of these abscesses, Bier employs the aid of the cupping-glass, or, as the Germans call it, Schröpfkopf. The part is carefully sterilized, the abscess is opened, and the mouth of the cupping-glass is applied to the opening. A suction action of the glass is produced by a strong rubber bulb attached to it. The tissues inside the rim of the cupping glass immediately become swollen and hyperæmic, and pus, caseous matter and blood are drawn off into the cup. After a period of five minutes the cup is removed for an interval of three minutes, and at the end of three-quarters of an hour, including the pauses, the abscess is covered with an aseptic dressing. This cupping is employed daily, for the treatment of sinuses or fistulae, either the result of recent or old abscesses.

Under this treatment, the soft, pale, flabby, tuberculous granulations soon become hard and red. When this stage is reached the glass is applied every two days, and as further improvement takes place, every three days, until a cure results. With this method the sinuses are not scraped, neither are they probed, packed or drained.

Great precautions are taken to ensure complete asepsis, and for a long time Bier did not employ the cupping-glass, because he was afraid of secondary infection. After a few weeks of this combined treatment of cupping and bandaging, Klapp, a colleague of Bier, injected the drawn-off contents of these sinuses into the peritoneal cavity of a number of animals. None of them succumbed, showing clearly the absence of any secondary infection.

The very worst cases of tuberculosis are first treated in bed, but even in these cases movements of the limbs are allowed.