

from the cortex of the organ, and which is less powerful from the standpoint of blood pressure than the medullary extract.

Thyroidin lowers blood pressure, most likely in a manner directly opposed to that started by suprarenin. Ovarin lowers blood pressure, markedly and persistently, and increases the frequency of the pulse. Both these conditions are independent of any action of the vasomotor centre. Orchidin increases arterial pressure by its influence on the vasomotor centres. Spermin Poehl has an analogous action. No difference is noted in the behavior of male and female animals when extracts of the genital organs are injected. Cerebrin Poehl increases blood pressure and produces a slight slowing of the pulse.—*Therapeutic Review.*

The Element of Tact in Medical Practice.

It can be truly said that no profession calls for a greater display of tact than that of medicine, and yet, how many physicians are deficient in this very essential quality. Its possession even in a man of mediocre professional ability is frequently sufficient to give him a place in popular estimation far above that of his less tactful though more able colleague.

To some extent tact is a natural quality, but it can certainly be acquired and cultivated. Its possession is particularly desirable in the surgeon, who still inspires considerable fear among the laity. It is not alone what he says, but what he leaves unsaid, that impresses the mind of the patient. To the tactful man it is possible to state unpalatable facts without awakening anxiety and suspicion, and this he can do without underrating the risk of a necessary operative procedure. There are, indeed, people of such decided equanimity that they are willing, and even prefer, to know the worst; but these constitute by far the minority. The majority of patients in this nervous age must be handled in the most tactful manner. They are apt to dwell upon every word and weigh its significance. A thoughtless word may inflict the greatest amount of worry, and we well recognize the injurious effect of anxiety and worry upon the vitality.

Some patients have a way of asking leading questions in regard to the prognosis of their ailments. What they really wish is an expression of hopefulness. But this by the untactful man is frequently misinterpreted as a desire to know the true state of affairs, and the answer based upon this erroneous interpretation often produces a disagreeable mental impression which is very difficult to remove without awakening further distrust. When confronted with an unfavorable case it is best to inform the relatives and friends of the true condition, but to let the patient see at least a ray of hope. After all, the