

nerve cells, to functional action, and to produce their separate effects, motor, sensory, secretory, sympathetic and vaso-motor. These data, electric in character, induced me to make further enquiry, by which it was ascertained that many cases of constitutional debility had their origin in the alimentary canal, and that the nervous system participated largely in such abnormal conditions.

In the discussion of Dr. Buzzard's paper (Edinburgh Meeting British Medical Association) on the Selective Action of Toxic Bodies on the Nervous System, the following statement was made: "It seems 'likely from the clinical symptoms, that whilst at the outset there is 'profound interference with the nutrition of 'the neurons' over a 'widely extended area, recovery rapidly occurs, in such as do not 'suffer change in their nucleus.'" It is this class of cases particularly, to which I refer, of a purely functional character, and not associated with *insular sclerosis*, or even *multiple neuritis*, both of which conditions are most likely the result of degenerative changes in nerve structure. Constitutional debility, the result of defective intestinal assimilation, protracted in character, is undoubtedly a powerful factor, in the poisoned nervous system, to keep up that condition. The neurons of the nerve centres, although not changed in structure, are in a measure defective as to function. Here, as well as in other neurotic states of the system, the precise condition is not, as yet, defined. However, when by the neurotone treatment, so marked improvement as to function takes place, the inference is, that the electric current, in a measure re-vivified the nerve centres, and their neurons, in direct connection, so as to re-establish the normal distribution of nerve power, in those parts defective in that particular. The following recent observations of E. Muller and Manicatide (March 3rd, 1898, *Deutsche Medicinische Wochenschrift*). "Examined the cells in the central nervous system, of seven infants, under three months of age, who had suffered from gastro-intestinal diseases. In all seven, changes were found in the cells, of the brain and spinal cord. The cells were found to lose their form, become indistinct and even the processes of the cells disappear, and the nucleus, as well as the nucleolus, often displaced."

These observations point beyond a doubt, to a close relationship between alimentary assimilation and nerve cell agency. Everything has a beginning, and the problem is, how to obviate the difficulties, which may take place even in ordinary intestinal functional disturbance, at a time when treatment may be of service *and life's span thus prolonged*. The physiological action of electric currents plays an important role, in the treatment of diseases of the nervous system. True, the nerve current has been compared to electricity, but this idea,