

chemical transformation, histogenetic in character. This entire process is subject to defeat by surrounding abnormal conditions. A gradually debilitated state of the system frequently follows, marked by moderate œdema of the extremities entirely outside of cardiac, hepatic, or renal complications. Under such circumstances, the local application of electricity to the abdominal walls brings about gradually a decided change for the better, the result of restored energy to the ganglionic centres, marked by subsidence of the dilated colon and the gradual and complete disappearance of serosity in the legs, owing to increased activity of the absorbents. I have frequently observed in regions of the limbs a lessened degree of sensation to the electric current of short duration. This defective electric response is interesting in the light of the *clefts*, or *indentations* in the medulla of the axis cylinder, defined as small irregular masses, separated by fluid (Foster, *Physiology*, page 122). Such conditions may account for an imperfect nervous impulse, the importance of which cannot be overestimated, provided the sudden return of complete sensation is the result of electrolytic action, restoring the continuity of the medulla of the axis cylinder.

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