

Miscellaneous

Simplified Tuberculin Skin Test

Barabaschi, *Gazetta degli Ospedali e delle Cliniche, Milan*, rubs the region with alcohol until the skin is red. Then in the center of the small area thus prepared he spreads the thinnest possible layer of undiluted tuberculin without rubbing it in and lets it dry. In the cases in which he has applied the tuberculin test in this way, the reaction was always positive in the 34 known tuberculous and negative in 35 controls. A positive reaction was obtained in 3 cases in which only the tendency to anemia had suggested tuberculosis, but the course of the cases confirmed the accuracy of the response. The method is similar to Lignière's technic only that there is no waste of tuberculin; Lignière rubs the skin with a wad of cotton dipped in the tuberculin, while Barabaschi does the rubbing with alcohol.—J. A. M. A.

Cardiac Neuroses

Max Herz (*Wien. klin. Woch.*) saw in one day 2 cases of cardiac neurosis simulating severe organic disease, and in each case there was a low pulse-rate accompanied by low blood pressure. He then examined the records of the last 1,000 patients with cardiac symptoms whom he had seen, in order to discover how often the condition of hypotonia and bradycardia were present either singly or in combination, and with what conditions they were associated. Cases in which bradycardia was a part of an infection or intoxication or was the result of increased brain pressure, an anatomical vagus lesion, etc., were omitted. The patients were almost altogether "ambulant," so that uncompensated cardiac lesions were not represented. A pulse-rate of below 68 per minute was considered to be slow. The number of cases was 73 of hypotonia, 55 of bradycardia, 29 of combined hypotonia and bradycardia. Of the 73 cases of hypotonia alone 48, or 65 per cent., were diagnosed as cardiac neuroses, while 17, or 23.2 per cent., were of arterial affections. Therefore, in doubtful cases, with symptoms which point to cardiac disease, a low blood pressure is suggestive of a cardiac neurosis. In the case of bradycardia alone 49 per cent. belonged to the group of arterial affections, 41.8 per cent. to that of the neuroses. With a combination of the slow pulse and low pressure 69.6 per cent. were of cardiac neurosis and only 27.5