

on vasomotor disturbances, and it is not strange that the two should be confounded.

Dr. H. P. BOWDITCH of Boston agreed entirely with Dr. Seguin that any attempt to explain the mechanism of trophic changes must be speculative in our present knowledge. We have to recognize in muscular tissues two distinct metabolic processes, one having its cause in the nitrogenous and the other in the non-nitrogenous metabolic. These are distinct inasmuch as it has been shown that the nitrogenous metabolism is not connected with muscular activity, while the non-nitrogenous is. When the muscular activity is kept within physiological limits urea excretion remains the same. Nitrogenous metabolism of the body is essential for muscular activity. It is essential for muscular activity that an abundant stream of nitrogen should flow into the body and out again. So the nitrogenous metabolism of the muscles goes on quite independently of its functional activity. If we limit the term trophic to the nitrogenous metabolism of the muscle and let the non-nitrogenous metabolism go to the functional activity, we would simplify matters a good deal.

Dr. PYE SMITH of London said that he had listened with great pleasure to the two admirable papers read before the meeting. He confessed that both from a physiological and clinical standpoint his judgment would be entirely on the side taken by Dr. Wood with such eloquence and zeal. He did not quite agree with Dr. Wood in imputing a logical error to those who resort to the supposition of traumatism and vasomotor disturbances to explain the phenomenon in question. He would quote the case reported by Hilton of a patient with an ulcer in the hand which got worse and worse in spite of all endeavors to cure it, when it was discovered that a minute exostosis was pressing on the ulnar nerve, and when the exostosis was removed the ulcer healed rapidly. Gangrene caused by an embolus obstructing an artery is a well-known fact. He still thought there are cases of gangrene quite inexplicable on such an hypothesis. They had all seen those strange cases of skin eruption come on rapidly following lesions of the cord. His own experience is that these