

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, has recently been abandoned. The important point is, that by the action of the electric current, we modify the electric state of the nerve, and the properties of the sensory or motor nerves reappear, and perform their regular part in the economy. There, by the influence of currents, nutrition is sure to improve the vitality of the tissues stimulated to renewed energy, brought about by a direct action on the trophic nerves, and on the tissue molecules of the organism, whose vitality is thus summoned into increased activity.

Alexander James, M.D. (Edinburgh, British Medical Association), in his paper on the Clinical Varieties of Hepatic Cirrhosis, stated "that the effect of an irritant on living tissue is increased metabolic activity, and the effect of increased metabolic activity is the sacrifice of growth and development to reproduction."

The systemic condition on which I now base these observations, is in cases of diminished metabolic activity in the *neurons*, prior to a sacrifice of growth and development, as after that stage, little if any influence in an electric method can be exercised. Fully aware of the doubt and uncertainty of biological problems, and while seeking for the explanation of certain functional disturbances, these few facts have been noted.

The alimentary canal and its disturbances, have within the past few years, attracted more than ordinary attention. The impression is gaining ground, that various manifestations of disease may arise through the absorption of toxic substances from within the canal. The arguments in favour of the toxæmic origin of intestinal disturbance are not sufficiently clear, owing to the absence of clinical data based on the pathological conditions involved. The important fact announced in 1880 by Baumann, that the various aromatic substances formed within the intestine, such as indol, phenol, cresol, etc., produced by "*anaerobic bacteria*" upon proteids, are passed off