

percussion of the abdominal walls to stimulate peristalsis. He also advocates vigorous percussion slapping and backing of the back, spine and buttocks to stimulate the centres in the cord.

Where the bowel is occluded by cancerous or other growths, massage is of course useless, but where the cause of constipation is scybala, defective blood or bile supply, or defective innervation, massage is a valuable remedy. Dowse recommends great care in the treatment by massage of obstruction, where intussusception is suspected, as very disastrous results may follow rough or unskilled handling of such cases. If there be necrosis or gangrene of the intussuscepted part, as sometimes happens, handling may cause rupture of the diseased walls, and a general peritonitis be set up.

One of our clinical teachers looks with disfavor on the use of massage in phlebitis, for he says, by manipulations we may dislodge a portion of the thrombus into the general circulation, which will speedily relieve the patient of the necessity of further treatment, though perhaps not altogether in a manner creditable to ourselves.

Abdominal massage is indicated in neurasthenia and neurosis of the stomach. It increases the tonicity of the abdominal walls, stomach and intestines, and promotes the glandular functions. Under its influence the secretion of hydrochloric acid and the total acidity of the stomach contents is increased. It is also of value in chronic gastritis, atony of the stomach, with or without dilatation, and in dilatation of the intestines.

It is contra-indicated in all conditions of ulceration of the stomach or intestines, in all forms of cancer, in acute inflammations, in hyperacidity, and excess of hydrochloric acid, in prolapsed and sensitive kidney, and in aneurism of the abdominal or thoracic aorta.

If time would permit I would touch on the uses of massage in diseases of the eye, ear and throat, in gynæcology, and in genito-urinary troubles, but I think I have said enough to-night to show what an important subject massage is, and how it may help us in our treatment of a variety of cases.