

the nature of the ailment, particularly so has it been found in a considerable proportion of the cases which have been sent to the hospital with the diagnosis of rheumatism. Its value in regard to the prognosis lies in the fact that a muscle, that will not contract to the strongest faradic current, will not get well within six months to two years. In regard to muscles which do react to faradism, the duration is measured in inverse proportion to the amount of reaction, thus, a muscle that reacts almost normally may take one month to get well, whereas one that shows only the least amount of reaction, perhaps to the strongest current, will probably take six months to recover. Diminution of electrical sense in this way is also an aid to prognosis, although not nearly as valuable as in the diagnosis.

*Treatment.*—The treatment for neuritis is first and foremost to remove the cause, if still operating, then for the multiple form rest in bed, especially for the worst stages. General tonic treatment for the local or multiple forms has now been commonly neglected, excepting for the small proportion of patients who happen to suffer from a run-down condition. The main lines of treatment are electricity, passive motion, and massage. Massage should be applied for a few minutes every day, and in hyperæsthetic cases, as in the alcoholic form, should be milder than in others, particularly in lead, where it may be given quite firmly. The passive movements are particularly valuable in stiffening joints and in muscles tending to contracture. In regard to electrical treatment, where there is no faradic contraction, galvanism should be given; where faradic contraction is present faradism or galvanism may be used. In either case an interrupting electrode should be employed; the current, which must be given daily for ten or fifteen minutes, should be just sufficient to elicit a contraction. It is advisable not to crowd the contractions, but to allow each one full scope, and to apply the anode to sensitive parts and the cathode where more stimulation or irritation is required. Sometimes, in order to contract, muscles require a current of rather painful degree. In these cases approximation of the electrodes will often overcome the difficulty. We might now give some consideration to the value of the electrical treatment. It has recently been demonstrated that the sponge of the anelectrode dipped into a medicinal solution and applied to the part will drive the drug into the system, when the constant current is turned on. Iodides, for example, will by this method, which is called Cataphoresis, appear in the urine in one hour. Galvanism therefore has an osmotic action, and on this basis will tend to deplete an œdematous or congested nerve, so that it therefore has a direct curative action. In addition both galvanism and faradism by keeping up muscle function,