

## Miscellaneous.

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### The Treatment of Presclerosis.

In the *Bulletin de l'Académie de Médecine* for January 21st, 1907, is reported a discussion on presclerosis which was opened by Huchard. He maintains that high arterial tension often precedes and produces the vascular lesions of arterio-sclerosis; and to this period of high blood pressure without any arterial change Huchard gave the name of presclerosis. In 1708 Boerhaave noticed the same fact. In 1749 Senac elaborated the theory. In 1874 Mohamed, while studying the prealbuminuric stage of Bright's disease, admitted a functional period characterized by increased blood pressure without any vascular change. In 1883 Sir W. Broadbent attributed the lesions of arterio-sclerosis to a heightened blood pressure; Clifford Allbutt said the same in 1895, and Leonard Williams in 1906 said that high tension is original in this sense, that it exists independently of every organic lesion. Josue produced atheroma in animals by injections of adrenalin. The rational line of treatment is one which will lower the blood pressure. The arterial system regulates the work of the heart, and it is through that system we must hope to relieve the latter organ. This lowering of the blood pressure may be achieved by many means—physical, hygienic, and medicinal. Diet, physical exercises, massage, Bourbon-Lancy baths, and high-frequency currents are some of the methods employed. Lacto-serum, amylnitrite, nitroglycerine, sodium nitrite, tetranitrite of erythol, potassium nitrate, and theobromine by its action on the kidneys, are also serviceable. Renal impermeability caused by excess and errors in eating is a frequent cause of presclerosis, and attention must be paid to this if the cure of presclerosis is wished and not only its temporary relief. The condition commences with an intoxication; it continues and ends with an intoxication. So to resist from the first high arterial tension by prescribing a diet; to resist it again in its effects by a vasodilator and pressure-lowering treatment; to reduce to a minimum the intake of foods which act as poisons, and to hasten the elimination of the poisons by diuretics; and lastly, to strengthen the heart in its constant fight against peripheral obstruction, is the problem of treatment. To recognize early the first functional stage—presclerosis—this is the work of the clinician. And the importance of this is great, for it is in the stage of presclerosis that the disease can be cured; when arterio-sclerosis is established with anatomical lesions of the vessels the cure can only be functional. Treatment by iodides, which has been so much abused—and still is abused in the