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EDITORIAL

THERAPEUTICS, WHOLE AND UNDIVIDED.

Therapeutics is a very comprehensive term, and should be clearly defined as everything that may be done or employed in the treatment of one who is suffering from any form of injury or ill-health, whether physical or mental.

Surgery is therefore one branch of therapeutics. The amputation of a leg is as strictly treatment as would be the application of a splint to a broken arm. The removal of a breast is treatment, or therapeutics, just as would be the administering of an anodyne for the relief of pain. It is therapeutics to incise an abscess just as surely as it would be therapeutics to give a cool sponge in typhoid fever.

Then every form of electricity used in medical practice is therapeutics, and, therefore, we speak of electro-therapeutics. The galvanic and faradic currents, the franklinic spark, the galvano-cautery, and the X-ray are all parts of physical therapeutics.

Then we have balneology in all its forms, and climatology. These are at times most useful, but they are only forms of therapeutics. It is treatment in the case of typhoid fever to order a bath, as much as it would be to order some drug to secure some needed relief for the patient. To order an ice bag to the side of a pneumonia patient is therapeutics just as much as to prescribe something for his troublesome cough.

Then there are rubbing, friction, manipulation, kneading, moving parts, and massage. For long centuries in some form and under some name these agencies have been made use of. They all constitute a part of the domain of therapeutics. Under the names of osteopathy and chiropractic an attempt has been made of late years to raise them into separate systems and designate them as new sciences. Nothing could be further from the truth. What is good in osteopathy and chiropractic is only there as part of general therapeutics in the subsection of manipu-