

Migraine is often associated with a throbbing temporal and occipital artery of the affected side. Pressure on these vessels or the application of an ice bag may bring immediate relief, facts which render it probable that a vaso-motor disturbance is an essential feature of the morbid process. Initial pallor of the face is a familiar symptom, and later throbbing as the headache develops, and it seems rational to believe that a similar process is present in the cortex. If this view is correct, the immediate relief following a profuse epistaxis or compression of the carotid artery is at once explained. Other methods of obtaining relief depend on withdrawing the blood to other parts of the body, as by immersion in a hot bath and applying ice to the head. Sipping hot fluids produces engorgement of the viscera and lessens the pressure in the cerebral vessels. The frequency of the attack in women at the commencement of the period probably depends on heightened blood pressure known to occur at that time.

It is a matter of general knowledge that morphine hypodermically is the only drug which will arrest an attack at the height of the paroxysm. This is due to the fact that digestion and absorption are arrested, and indeed, drugs may be vomited unchanged at the end of an attack. The old fashioned seton induces a slight pyrexia and often relieves the frequency and severity of the paroxysms.

A full dose of phenacetin and caffeine as soon as the aura appears, with rest for a couple of hours may serve to ward off an attack. For menstrual headache butyl-chloral hydrate in 10 grain doses, with phenazone 5 grs. and Tr. Gelsemium m.x. for two days previous to the period, and continued for its first two days is serviceable. In some cases other coal tar preparations act better and may be tried. For the attack itself massage of the forehead and head with high frequency electricity in the form of faint sparks to the scalp may lessen the pain. In spite of the tendency of static electricity to raise blood pressure, the negative breeze from a powerful machine often effects immediate and lasting relief.

Eye strain and nasal disorders are the subjects of special papers by Drs. Jessep and Lock.

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## Society Proceedings.

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