

functions. The heart was slowed, and its ventricular action rendered highly intermittent, owing to impulses through the vagi nerves. The condition of the circulation may be considered a reversion for the time to the reptilian type (see a paper on "Reversion," by the present writer, in the *Canada Medical and Surgical Journal* for April, 1888); but the vagus is a trophic nerve, and the heart, though being injured by the venous blood, is also being benefited by the impulses descending the vagi—hence, a preparation for recovery.

The artificial respiration and heat furnish oxygen and—what is essential to mammalian functional action of all kinds—a certain temperature. The mammal, in this case, is presently restored to its normal grade, and leaves the reptilian (cold-blooded) condition, in which it could exist for a brief period.

There are many indications to show that the cord did not suffer as much as the brain, which is explicable by the site of the original impact of the current (head). Hence the leg can shortly be drawn up—a revived reflex, probably. The menses are not interrupted. On the other hand, there is constipation not to be accounted for wholly by the inactivity in bed, but by the inhibitory influence of the brain over the cord, which latter Goltz has clearly proved to be alone essential for defecation. At first it is a shade surprising that the menses were not interrupted as the action of the alimentary tract evidently was (constipation); but when the length of the latter is remembered and its abundant nerve-supply—the