

feet and ankles begin to swell with a dropsical clearness of the skin, the finger nails curl at the corners, loss of appetite, increased debility, with emaciation, diarrhoea sets in, and the patient dies from dyspnoea.

Consumptives have a tonic condition of the skin. Physicians have sought to relieve this condition by hot and cold water baths; also by sudorific treatment, not being aware of the real cause, the absence of the sebaceous lubricator. The effect of oil and of water upon leather is very different—the former softens permanently, while the latter soon leaves the article harder than before.

There has been an inexplicable puzzle about the chill, fever and colliquative sweats, from the fact that the electric motor and recuperative forces of the system have not been understood.

"What is a chill? It is a rigor. What is a rigor? A chill." That is as clear as mud.

When the scales of the cuticle are shut down, closing all the windows to the external world, the dictates of the cerebellum sends a large charge of electricity to the surface to shake the integument for the purpose of arousing the dormant circulation. This shaking is the rigor and the cause of the heat that follows, called the fever. Fever at the surface is always the result of electric effort. Electricity is the master workman sent by the battery to take the initiatory steps which are the indications of disease. Large expenditures of electricity produce exhaustion and sleep. In this condition the whole muscular structure is relaxed, all the minute sphincters, closing the fluid capillaries and sweat pores, give way, when the surplus moisture exudes in what is familiarly called night sweats. The electric exhaustion caused the debility, and the debility set the fluids free which could not escape by evaporation from the morbid condition of the skin. I feel well assured that the profession is not prepared to understand the deleterious results arising from a

11 p 11/12 11/13