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# MUSCULAR RHEUMATISM.

BULLETIN No. 30.

Issued by the Clinical Department of the Vibrator Instrument Company,  
The Hoffman Arms, 640 Madison Ave., New York City.

A CASE OF MUSCULAR RHEUMATISM TREATED BY MECHANICAL VIBRATORY STIMULATION. REPORTED BY H. F. PITCHER, M. D., HAVERHILL, MASS.

## HISTORY.

Male. Age, 54. Previous health good.

In the latter part of October, 1903, he went on a hunting trip in the northern woods of Maine. The weather was very cold, and there was some snow on the ground. After a long walk through the woods he was left on the brow of the hill to remain until his companion returned. He was perspiring freely from the walk, and while waiting he became thoroughly chilled. After two hours he returned to camp, but was unable to get warm all that night. On the next day he returned to his home.

## DIAGNOSIS.

I was called to see him and found him suffering pain all over the body. All of the viscera were in a state of congestion, there was deficient action of the kidneys, bowels were constipated, severe headache, temperature 101, pulse 80. A diagnosis of muscular rheumatism was made.

## TREATMENT.

The usual medicinal remedies were given, and after about two weeks he was relieved to a great extent. After a time extreme sensitiveness of the whole spine developed. There was some numbness in the lower limbs, due to lack of motion. The bowels again became very constipated, the urine became loaded with urates and phosphates, and the kidneys were in a state of inactivity. He then began to suffer from severe pain in the back across the lumbar region, and also in the limbs and shoulders. There was anorexia, severe headache and insomnia. Very often the use of morphia was required to relieve the insomnia. He was given hot baths, vapor baths, and the anti-rheumatic remedies. Later he was given massage, and in April, 1904, he went to Hot Springs, Ark., remaining there until about the first of June, when he returned to his home very little improved. He was able to get about with the aid of a cane, but all movements were very painful. He again returned for treatment, and was given static electricity during June and July, 1904, being slightly improved as a result.

He was out of the city until September, 1904, at which time he again placed himself under my care, and was given electrical treatment until October, 1904, when this was discarded, and Mechanical Vibratory Stimulation substituted. When treatment with the vibrator was begun there was much pain and stiffness in the limbs, with extreme pain in the right shoulder and left hip, and along the course of the sciatic nerves. The entire spine was very sensitive, which sensitiveness was especially marked in the lumbar region. He walked in a stooping posture.

Vibration was given every other day for six weeks, going over the whole length of the spine and around the border of the right scapula, and at the sciatic notches with the ball attachment, medium stroke and medium pressure fifteen to twenty seconds at each point. The lymphatics in the axillary and inguinal regions were stimulated by use of the brush attachment locally, while the ball was used over the liver and spleen anteriorly, and along the course of the colon.

## RESULTS.

After the first few treatments he could sleep without the aid of drugs. Heretofore this had been impossible. The pain in the back and limbs was relieved, and when he discontinued treatment in the first part of December, 1904, he was in a normal condition.

Under all other methods of treatment there was but very little improvement, but under Mechanical Vibratory Stimulation improvement began from the first and recovery was rapidly brought about by its use.

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**NOTE**—It is the intention of the Clinical Department of this Company, to issue, for the information of the profession, bulletins from time to time (probably two each month) setting forth, briefly, the histories, diagnosis and results, in certain interesting cases, treated by this new therapy. It is hoped that these bulletins, while illustrating the practical value of this new system of treatment, will also be a material contribution to the general advancement of medical science.

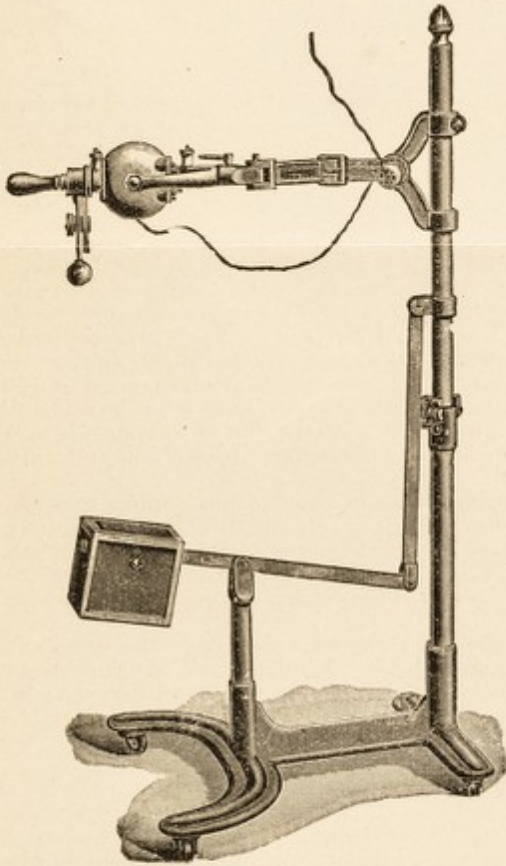


## RATIONALE OF TREATMENT.

The pain being practically in all parts of the body, the ball attachment was used the entire length of the spine in order to affect not only all the trophic centres, but the spinal nerves as well. The general, together with the local treatment, caused the lymphatic glands and the various excretory organs to take on increased activity, and accelerated the elimination of the poisonous products which had accumulated in the body.

## THE "CHATTANOOGA" VIBRATOR

Used in the treatment of this case.



Vibrator Instrument Co.  
Chattanooga, Tenn.

NOTE—The Cut indicates affected areas, showing where treatment was applied.

THROUGHOUT ENTIRE LENGTH OF SPINE.

