

Preliminary note on the action of calcium, barium, and potassium on muscle / by T. Lauder Brunton and Theodore Cash.

Contributors

Brunton, Thomas Lauder, Sir, 1844-1916.
Cash, John Theodore, 1854-1936.
Royal College of Surgeons of England

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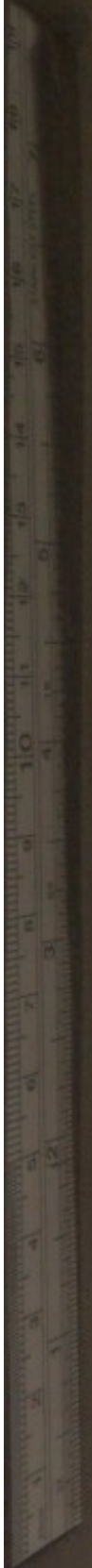
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Preliminary Note on the
Potassium on Muscle,
F.R.S., and THORNTON
1883.

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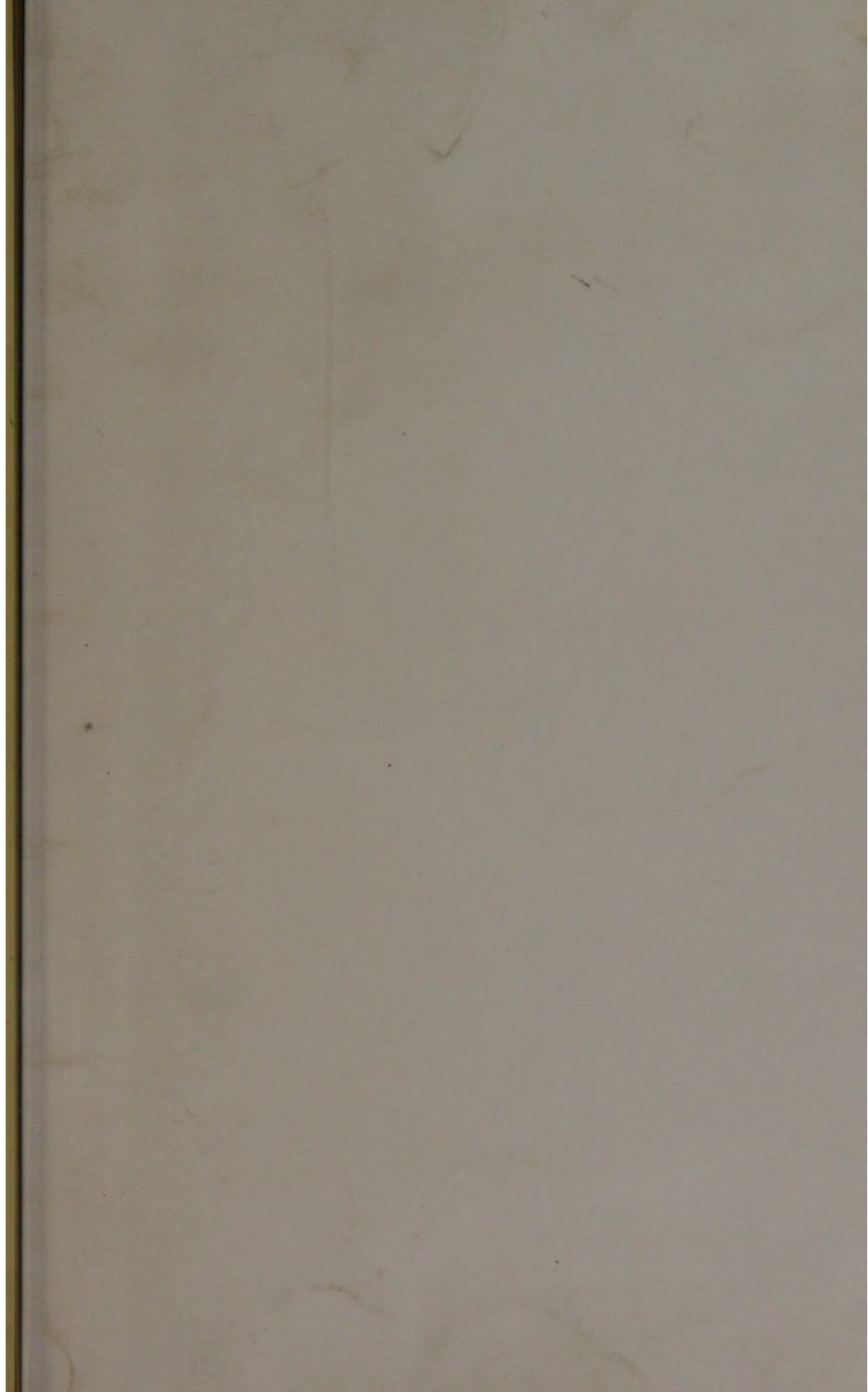
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similar action on voluntary
the case. Calcium in dilute
contraction in the gastrocnemius
quantity applied shorten the con-
tract of barium on muscle by
groups of elements, according
physiological action. These
another paper. The effect of
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in the modifications produce
found that the venous curve
the case of the gastrocnemius
of the frog's heart. The per-
gastrocnemius is also abolished
of other substances belonging
them have a similar, though
results of these experiments,
which we have already alluded
paper.

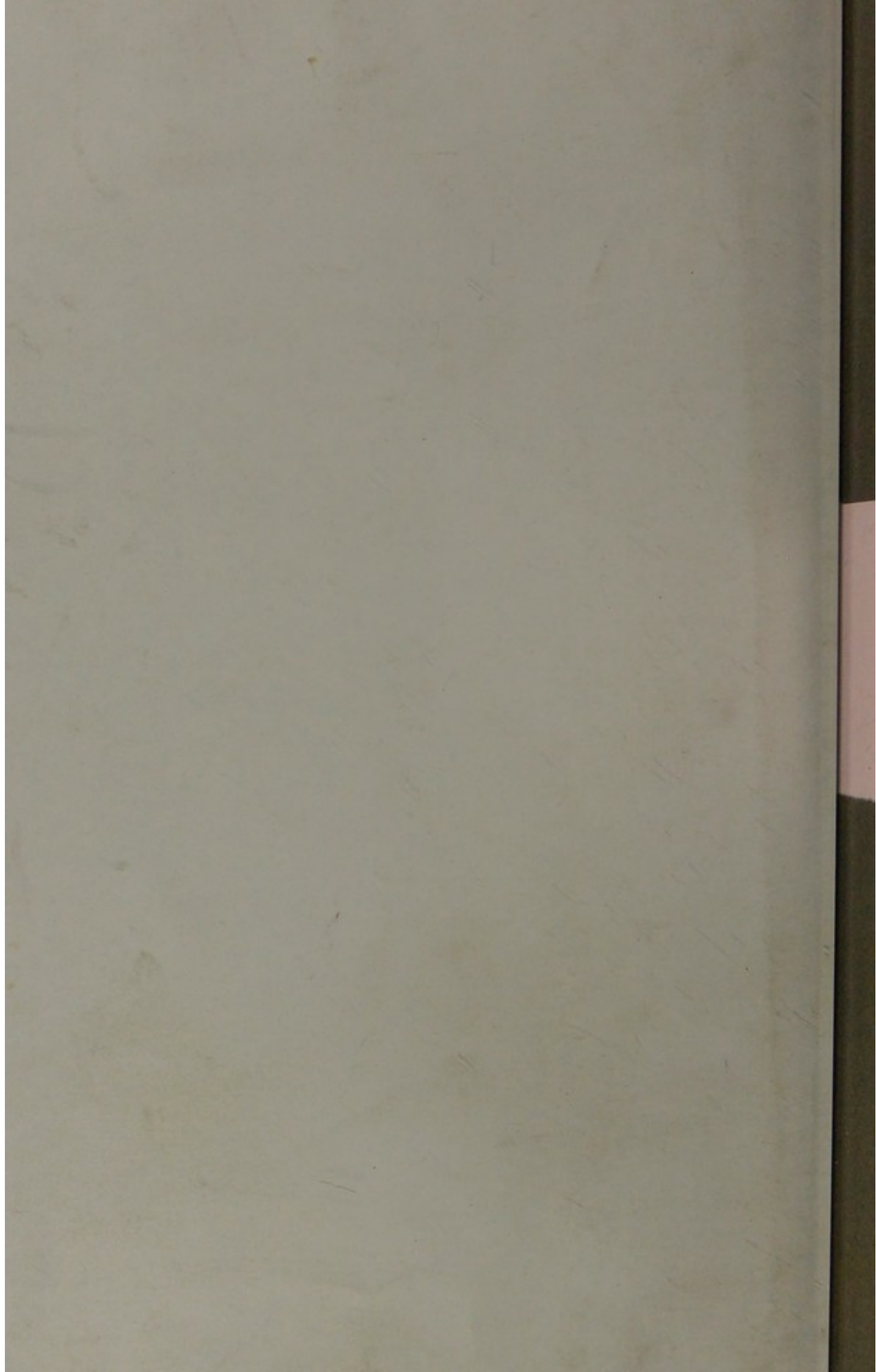
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“Preliminary Note on the Action of Calcium, Barium, and Potassium on Muscle.” By T. LAUDER BRUNTON, M.D., F.R.S., and THEODORE CASH, M.D. Received February 13, 1883.

It has been shown by Ringer that calcium prolongs the contraction of the frog's heart. This prolongation is diminished by the subsequent addition of potash.

It occurred to us that calcium and potassium salts might exercise a similar action on voluntary muscle. On trying it, we found this to be the case. Calcium in dilute solution prolongs the duration of the contraction in the gastrocnemius of the frog. Potassium salts subsequently applied shorten the contraction. We have been led to try the effect of barium on muscle by considerations regarding the relations of groups of elements, according to Mendelejeff's classification, to their physiological action. These considerations we purpose to develop in another paper. The effect of barium is very remarkable. It produces a curve very much like that caused by veratria, both in its form and in the modifications produced in it by repeated stimuli. We have found that the veratria curve is restored by potash to the normal in the case of the gastrocnemius, just as Ringer found it in the case of the frog's heart. The peculiarity which barium produces in the gastrocnemius is also abolished by potash. We have tested a number of other substances belonging to allied groups, and find that some of them have a similar, though not identical, action with barium. The results of these experiments, as well as the general considerations to which we have already alluded, we purpose to discuss in another paper.





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