

Publishers' Department

THE REMEDIAL VALUE OF IRON. — Amid all the doubt that modern skepticism and therapeutic nihilism have aroused in the professional mind, in regard to the medicinal or drug treatment of disease, we have yet to hear any question as to the distinct value of iron in anemic, chlorotic and generally devitalized conditions. This metal is, indeed, the physician's mainstay in such cases, and cannot successfully be omitted or replaced. There does exist, however, considerable difference of opinion as to the method of administering iron and as to the most generally eligible preparation of same. The tincture of the olden times, prepared from iron filings, has in these later days been superseded by the less irritant and more tolerable preparations introduced into modern pharmacy. Among such products none has seemed to be so generally acceptable and promptly assimilable as the organo-plastic form represented by Pepto-Mangan (Gude). The ferruginous element in this preparation exists as a true peptonate, in combination with organic manganese, iron's side-partner in reconstructive blood therapy. It is palatable, readily tolerable, quickly absorbable and assimilable and entirely free from irritant or constipating effect. Pepto-Mangan (Gude) rapidly restores vigor to the circulating fluid, and because of its blandness and ready tolerability is especially valuable in pediatric practice.

It is a well-established fact that many of the chemical effects produced by living cells are due, not to the direct action of the protoplasm, but to that of soluble ferments or enzymes. Bovril is prepared by the complete disintegration of the muscle-cells of the finest ox-beef. The meat juices, with the intracellular enzymes in solution, are concentrated and then incorporated with the pulverized fibrine of fresh, unexhausted muscle tissue. Over and above its value as a highly nutritious nitrogenous food, there can be little doubt but that it has hydrolyzing and oxydizing properties which function largely in the anabolic and katabolic changes in the tissues of the consumer. It possesses the elements essential not only for its own digestion and assimilation, but also for that of other protein, fat and carbohydrate foods. It is thus a tissue-stimulant in the broadest sense, aiding in the hydrolysis, oxydation and elimination of the effete products of katabolism, and in the building up of new tissue. In health, convalescence and disease, it thus serves a valuable purpose and has acquired an unassailable position in modern therapy.