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THE INTESTINAL TRACT AS A SOURCE OF INFECTION.

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In discussing the intestinal tract as a source of infection, I shall probably present facts, some of which are familiar to all of you, all of which are familiar perhaps to some of you, for there is no new thing under the sun, but my grouping of ideas will be new, and so a pen picture will be made, which I trust will convey to you the thoughts I have had, and the conclusions I have reached.

Each of us looks at a subject from his own point of view. Now, to-night, I want you to look at this important subject from my point of view, and having seen the picture I have seen, go away impressed with the thoughts which the work of others, masters in the art, has impressed on me. Living here, where West is East and East is West, at the outer fringe of civilization, with the centres of learning far removed from us, with poorly equipped hospitals and little opportunity for anything but routine work, it is almost impossible for any of us to be able to introduce, through our own work, anything new to the profession. All we can hope to do is to keep close to all advances made elsewhere, not to lag too far behind in the march of progress, and later as our opportunities increase, let us hope that some of our number may attain to eminence through important discoveries made by their own scientific work and research.

Much discussion has arisen over the classification of intoxications, exogenous or endogenous, some authorities including in the latter those intoxications due to absorption from the intestinal canal, others eliminating this latter group, and confining the term endogenous to those groups where the toxic products are formed in the tissues themselves. This would leave the intestinal tract as an exogenous source, and so I take it. Morphologically it is similar to the skin with which it is directly connected, and the fact, that this canal merely runs through the body, is not sufficient to make its classification different from that of the skin. Like the skin, it communicates directly with the exterior environment,