

supplied by the phenomena observed in individuals bearing gastric fistula. Amongst these observations, there is one renowned above all, and cited everywhere, I mean the case of the Canadian, Alexis St. Martin, related by Dr. Beaumont. That celebrated patient received one day a shot wound in the pit of the stomach. Fortunately for the man and for science, the wound did not prove fatal, but the result was an opening which never closed and established a permanent communication between the outside and the stomach. Dr. Beaumont, during several years, studied the functions of digestion on this robust Canadian. He would make him swallow all kinds of food, watching their exit on a level with the artificial opening and could then calculate the time taken by alimentary substances to undergo a complete digestion in the stomach. He made us know the results of his experiments in a rather curious table of which I will give you a brief abstract. He observed that the following foods were completely digested at the end of the periods mentioned :

|                              |              |                       |              |
|------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Rice.....                    | 1 hour.      | Fried oysters .....   | 3 hrs. 15 m. |
| Boiled milk .....            | 2 hours.     | Roast beef .....      | 3 hours.     |
| Roast turkey.....            | 2½ hours.    | Beefsteak .....       | 3 “          |
| Boiled turkey.....           | 2 hrs. 44 m. | Boiled beef ..        | 3½ “         |
| Boiled goose.....            | 2½ hours.    | Roast mutton .....    | 3 hrs. 15 m. |
| Suckling pig.....            | 2½ “         | Roast veal .....      | 4 hours.     |
| Fresh lamb .....             | 2½ “         | Boiled fowl.....      | 4 “          |
| Fresh eggs, boiled hard..... | 3½ “         | Roast duck.....       | 4 “          |
| Fresh eggs, boiled soft..... | 3 “          | Roast pork.....       | 5 hrs. 15 m. |
| Fresh eggs, raw.....         | 2 “          | Sausage.....          | 3 hrs. 20 m. |
| Fresh eggs, fried .....      | 3½ “         | Bread .....           | 3 hrs. 30 m. |
| Salt codfish .....           | 2 “          | Boiled potatoes ..... | 3 hrs. 30 m. |
| Salmon trout....             | 1½ “         | Fried potatoes .....  | 2 hrs. 30 m. |
| Oysters, raw.....            | 2 hrs. 55 m. | Boiled cabbage.....   | 4 hours.     |
| Oyster soup .....            | 3½ hours.    |                       |              |

The experiments of Dr. Beaumont on his Canadian were made as well by Ch. Richet on a man named Marcellin upon whom Surgeon Verneuil performed a gastric fistula. I do not wish to enter into the details of this case which I mention only on account of a curious fact that happened with that man, Marcellin, a fact showing how hard it is, sometimes, to resist the impulse of a passion even in spite of the greatest obstacles to its gratification.