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## **Original Articles**

## AUTO-INTOXICATION AND EXCRETION IN RELATION TO DISEASE.\*

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Bouchard has expressed an important truth in the terse statement, "that the organism in its normal as well as in its pathological state is a receptacle and laboratory of poison." Daily, during the normal processes of metabolism, sufficient poisonous products are formed to quickly cause death if retained in the system. Thus it has been estimated that a fatal dose of bile is formed in eight hours; the kidneys remove in fifty-two hours poisons sufficient to have produced death if retained; and the lungs daily excrete many times a fatal amount of CO<sub>2</sub> and organic poisons. Man is thus continually exposed to the peril of intoxication from substance elaborated in his own body. In pathological states the dangers are multiplied many times, for, added to the ordinary excrementitious poisons, we may have many imperfectly oxidized products of proteid metabolism gaining entrance to the general circulation, as uric acid, leucin and tyrosin, and probably other partly elaborated nitrogenous materials, the nature of which is not vet understood. Besides, in pathological states, the digestive apparatus is often out of gear, with fermentation and putrefaction of the food in the stomach and intestines adding its quota to the general toxemia. We must also take into account the materials resulting from increased tissue waste; and withal a decreased power on the part of the diseased organism to cope with the large quantity of poisons produced.

\* Read before the Undergraduates' Medical Society, Trinity Medical College.