

A NEW METHOD OF MEDICATION.—The subject of the employment of animal extracts or tissues in the treatment of disease is exciting very general interest among physicians abroad and in this country. The cosmopolitan professional circles of England and America are enthusing over the results already obtained with certain of these remedies. In an article on "The Treatment of Myxœdema and Other Diseases by the Use of Certain Organic Extracts," Dr. Hector N. G. Mackenzie presents in the *London Lancet*, Jan. 21st, 1893, an interesting *resumé* of the results he has already obtained with this method of medication. Dr. W. A. Hammond also contributes to the *New York Medical Journal*, Jan. 28th, 1893, a paper under the title, "On Certain Organic Extracts: Their Preparation and Physiological and Therapeutical Effects." To physicians interested in this new and promising method of relieving certain diseases hitherto unamenable to treatment by other means, Parke, Davis & Co. announce that they are ready to supply two of these medicaments: Decalcified Thyroids in powder, representing in permanent form the thyroid gland of the sheep; and Cerebrin, prepared after the formula of Dr. Wm. A. Hammond. It is the purpose of this house, who are the first manufacturing chemists of this country, to place these remedies before the medical profession in an eligible form, and who will be pleased to send reprints of Dr. Mackenzie's and Dr. Hammond's articles, and afford all desired information concerning the products now announced, to extend their line of this class of products as fast as experience justifies their therapeutical use.

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Liebig says: "The vivifying agency of the blood must ever be considered to be the most important condition in the restoration of a disturbed equilibrium. The blood, therefore, must be constantly considered and kept in view as the ultimate and most powerful cause of a lasting vital resistance, as well in the diseased as in the normal portions of the body."

Purity of the blood is thus recognized by Liebig as a vital necessity, if it is to be able to vivify the body. Purity of the blood depends upon the due performance of those functions that furnish it with the proper material to replace those portions

exhausted by use. Said material is supplied by the food taken, properly *assimilated* or digested.

Vegetables, including bread, enter most largely into the average diet of the human, and as this class of food contains a large amount of starch, it is of first importance that *all* this starch is converted from an insoluble, innutritious body to a soluble and nutritious one. As you well know, this is intended by nature to be accomplished by a peculiar ferment, *Ptyalin*, contained in the saliva, which has intense activity and if in a healthy state changes starch into sugar or maltose, which is always the result of starch hydrolyzed by either the ferment of the saliva or the pancreas. These sugar products are easily absorbed, and have besides important physiological significance. Schiff states that when the albumen of egg, or other insoluble food, was given to fasting animals, no digestion took place, as no pepsine was secreted; but if certain soluble foods were given at the same time, pepsine was produced and digestion took place.

Ptyalin, or Diastase, is readily absorbed and diffused, and there are strong reasons for believing that it goes with the starchy food through the alimentary tract, to complete its action and expend its force, as is shown in the *fæces* after taking *Morse's Diastase*.

Mr. Hazen Morse, of International Bridge, Ontario, desires to hear from the profession regarding his preparations of malt, viz.: Diastase plain, Diastase with Essence of Pepsine, and Diastase Ferrated. These preparations are made from the finest Canada malt, four times more concentrated than the ordinary syrups of malt, yet of the density of ordinary fluid extracts, and containing diastase in a normal and highly active state, with very little maltose, and as digestive aids have no equal. Samples furnished upon application.

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Parker has discovered that the unpleasant, or even poisonous symptoms, which occasionally follow the local application of strong solutions of cocaine in the nasal and buccal cavities, may be entirely prevented by combining the drug with resorcin. This combination is also of advantage in utilizing the antiseptic astringent and hæmodynamic properties of the latter drug.—*Medical World*.