

index to the purity or impurity of the blood. To say that it indicates or depends upon the condition of the stomach, or is simply of such and such a character in certain diseases, means nothing but the statement of a coincidence.

When the urine stands for a time in an unclean vessel, the solids, including both organic and inorganic constituents, are precipitated. The larger the amount of waste matter drawn from the blood and the denser the urine, the greater will be the amount of the precipitate. The same changes occur in all the other fluids, excretions and secretions of the body when their temperature and normal conditions vary.

The salivary secretion is composed of certain normal constituents. Besides these normal constituents, which vary within certain limits, there are undoubtedly some abnormal elements which are carried out through the glands from the blood when it is surcharged with impurities. Now, when this abnormal saliva is thrown into the mouth and subjected to the action of the numerous micro-organisms of fermentation, more or less of the solid matters are thrown down and constitute a salivary precipitate, which lodges on the teeth and on the dorsum of the tongue, also on the gums and lips, which, in cases of typhoid fever, is known as sordes. This salivary precipitate can be recognized on the teeth, as it roughens their surface. It is easily removed by the use of the toothbrush. It covers the teeth as a whitish deposit which microscopically shows the different forms of micrococci and bacilli. Upon the tongue it is allowed to remain until it becomes very offensive, unless it is systematically removed by scraping. It undergoes fermentation very readily, and is usually of the same character, consequently communicating an odor to the breath which is recognized as being the same whenever it occurs. In Bright's disease, in diabetes, and in almost any disease in which the nutrition and excretory organs are disordered, the coating becomes very foul, and the fouler the tongue the more serious the condition of the patient, the more sluggish his excretory organs, and the more heavily loaded his blood is with toxins. In some diseases the odor of the breath, as well as the color and character of the coating, is peculiar to the disease, depending upon the peculiar forms of toxins with which the blood is charged.

Besides the systemic germ infection, it is a question if the highly offensive odor, noticeable in any case in which the tongue is heavily coated, has not also a considerably depressant effect on the nervous system, if not on the nutrition, acting much like a gaseous poison, and all the inspired air is laden with it as well as the expired air.