

DR. ADAMI : Paper on "Appetite Juice," printed in November number of this Journal.

DR. EVANS in congratulating Dr. Adami on his paper said that he had read the book referred to, and would recommend it to all present. Dr. Evans was of opinion that the results of wine cocktails at dinner, as mentioned by the author [Pawlow], and Beaumont's passing of a gum elastic tube into the stomach and setting up a flow of gastric juice, were one and the same; in certain forms of indigestion there was a craving for large amounts of food, and it seems to him that it was probably due to an irritation of the gastric mucosa and as such was interpreted by the higher centres. If Beaumont's man had been asked how he felt during the experiment he would probably have replied that he was hungry.

DR. WESLEY MILLS : In drawing some indirect conclusions from the reading of the paper, Dr. Mills noted the fact of the author's long experimentation before any publication of the results, an example not much followed at the present day. He was, however, of the opinion that the difference between Pawlow's work and Beaumont's, was more apparent than real; that Beaumont's experiment was on one individual, and that even among the lower animals we recognize individuality. Another observation was, that the most striking results of Pawlow's observations were simply a confirmation of ordinary experience. With regard to digestion, physiologists seemed to think that one must expect no more of the alimentary tract than could be demonstrated in vitro in the laboratory. But it was seen that even low down in the invertebrates, where in their crude cavity even sea water entered, digestion must be very imperfect, and that the principal part of the work must be done by the cells which line the cavity after material had been stored in it. And it looked as if recent researches were bringing them to the idea that the finer work of digestion was in this intercellular matter, for instance the digestion of fat; and how he asked were we to bridge over the gap between what was ordinarily called digestion and the plasma of the blood; there must be some very important process, between the peptone and the proteids of the plasma of the blood. There they had something taking place within structures not outside them. He therefore concluded, even in the presence of those extended researches, that they were still just on the threshold of the subject. The various forces which brought about secretion of the juice were only one part. Indigestion was evidently a disease of the times, for it was a very prevalent condition, and it might be looked upon in the light of an influence of the nervous system upon the whole process.