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Original Articles

No paper published or to be published elsewhere as original, will be accepted in this department.

ON THE PRESENCE OF CHOLIN AND NEURIN IN THE INTESTINAL CANAL DURING ITS COMPLETE OBSTRUCTION.—A RESEARCH ON AUTO-INTOXICATION.

(Read before the Anerican Physiological Association at New York, December, 1898.)

BY BEATTIE NESBITT, M.D. From the Pharmacological Laboratory of the Johns Hopkins University.

In the normal process of digestion the proteids and carbohydrates of our food are changed into more readily assimilated compounds, which are further altered before reaching the tissues; for example, the peptones,* which, if absorbed unaltered into the system, would be very toxic, are changed into nutritive material in passing the intestinal wall. As a result of bacterial activity we may have these compounds broken up in a different manner, giving rise, either as immediate or terminal products of the decomposition of the proteid or carbohydrate molecule to substances of more or less toxic character. Some of these substances, as phenol, the cresols, the dihydroxy-benzenes, indol and skatol, are known to occur as a result of the constant action of putrefactive bacteria in the large intestine. We may also have a large number of organic acids of the fatty series, as acetic, lactic, butyric, caproic, caprylic, etc., which has been shown to occur in various catarrhal condi-

^{*}According to E. Fiquet, the poisonous effects usually ascribed to peptones and albumoses are in reality due to ptomaines or other toxins which have not been removed by the ordinary processes of purification. Compt. rendus Acad d. sc., 1897, p. 1371.