

This method of diagnosis has an even wider application. Besides hypersecretion and hyposcretion of ductless and other glands we may conceive also of a secretion of unfinished or morbid substances from the glands, which may act as foreign materials against which ferments are produced which split them up. In dementia precox Fauser says that there is a ferment which breaks up substances from the genital gland. The genital glands of old men and women as well as those of patients with dementia precox serve as test objects, but there is no reaction with ovarian tissue and serum from male patients or with testicular tissue and serum from female patients. In a few instances thyroid tissue is split up. More recently Wegener has reported the results of a study of two hundred cases of different nervous diseases. In dementia precox in women he found that the serum would split up ovarian and tube tissue but not testicular tissue. The reverse was true for men. In some instances lymph-node substance was also affected. In maniacal depressive insanity proteolytic ferments could not be demonstrated in the serum, thus indicating that the test may serve as an aid in differential diagnosis. In epilepsy Wegener found that the serum would cause a cleavage of brain substance only in those cases in which dementia was present. In all syphilitic and parasymphilitic disorders he found that the serum caused cleavage of brain substance but not that of other organs. In a case of neuritis he found that the blood-serum reacted with muscle substance but not with other organs.

Lampe and Papozolu tested the serum of thirty normal persons with various organs and obtained no evidences of splitting of proteins.

Frank and Rosenthal attempted to determine what relationship, if any, existed between these ferments and immune bodies. They found that the latter are present when the former are absent, and hence no relationship could be traced.

Munzer suggests that the cerebrospinal fluid should be examined for foreign elements, as brain substance in dementia precox and general paralysis.

The possibilities indicated seem large. Almost daily new observations are recorded and there is good reason to believe that real additions to our knowledge of many diseases will result from the use of Abderhalden's method.—*J. A. M. A.*