

AMYLOLYTIC FERMENTS.—In an article on this important subject, be Wyatt Wingrave, M.R.C.S. England (Assistant Surgeon to the Central London Throat and Ear Hospital), in the *London Lancet*, May 7th, 1898, we are informed of a personal necessity that arose in the writer's experience for a reliable starch digestant. A crucial comparative examination was therefore made of many malt extracts and of Taka-Diastase, the tests being conducted both chemically and clinically.

He summarizes briefly: 1. That Taka-Diastase is the most powerful of the starch or diastatic ferments, and the most reliable, since it is more rapid in its action, *i.e.*, "it will convert a larger amount (of starch) in a given time than will any other amylolytic ferment." 2. That Taka-Diastase seems to be less retarded in its digestive action by the presence of the organic acids (butyric, lactic, acetic), and also by tea, coffee and alcohol, than are saliva and the malt extracts. This is an important point in pyrosis. 3. That all mineral acids, hydrochloric, etc., quickly stop and permanently destroy all diastatic action if allowed sufficient time and if present in sufficient quantities. 4. That Taka-Diastase and Malt diastase have, like ptyalin, no action upon cellulose (uncooked starch). All starch food should therefore be cooked to permit of the starch ferment assisting Nature in this function.

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