

which is not entirely predigested, and which therefore stimulates the functional activity of the organs which furnish the digestive ferments, is preferable, as a rule, to food which is entirely predigested, and which therefore requires only absorption, provided that the digestive organs are not overtaxed, *and the digestion is easy and complete*. This statement is based on the fact that the healthy development of the infant requires the normal functional activity of all its organs, of those of the digestive system as well as of the other systems. There are certain natural functions that should be allowed to act as they do on human milk, and it seems irrational and contrary to the laws of physiology not to encourage all functions to act naturally, each in its own province, instead of forestalling their action and allowing them to fall into disuse and thus become weakened. The allowing a developed function to fall into disuse might be said to occur in predigesting albuminoids; i.e., in digesting them outside of the body, instead of inside.

Furthermore, it is a well-established fact that the digestive juices have important *preservative* action. The chyme is a mass admirably adapted for putrefaction or fermentation, and such a mixture outside of the body, at the same temperature, would quickly decompose. Such decomposition, however, occurs in the alimentary tract of the infant, only through some previous excesses, or errors in diet, which have resulted in a deficiency of the digestive secretions, and therefore a proportionable loss of their antiseptic function. The problem, then, is not to supply food which has been artificially digested outside of the body, but to follow nature's method and digest it inside of the body, aiding and encouraging the organs themselves to a natural performance of their duty.

To attain this object all have felt the want of a digestive ferment that would act independently of its environment; one that would perform temporarily the part of the normal secretions in the various portions of the alimentary canal, not only aiding in the digestion of all classes of food, but acting enzymotically in checking fermentation and the development of the microbes causing enteric diseases. Pepsin, diastase, pancreatin, etc., though unorganized ferments of the nature required, have all been tried and found wanting in some essential quality, one being restricted in action to an acid medium, another to an alkaline; one digesting starches only, another only proteids. What has been needed, therefore, is a ferment possessing both amylolytic and proteolytic