

the stomach. Prof. G. Marcone (*Riforma Medica*, June 8th, 1891) has endeavoured to settle the question on a sound physiological basis. He has studied the action of sixteen drugs belonging to the various groups of bitters, aromatics, and stimulants, and finds that all, without exception, cause increase of the secretion of gastric juice.

(1) Mixing the drug with food, prepared always in the same manner—(a) the period of digestion is shortened, (b) the quantity of gastric juice is increased, (c) the movements of the stomach are more active and more efficient, and (d) the gastric juice, increased in amount, retains its full digestive power.

(2) Introducing the drug into the empty stomach—(a) the quantity of gastric juice is increased, and (b) the juice retains undoubted digestive power. The above results were verified by control observations made with distilled water in place of drugs.

(3) In order to ascertain, if possible, whether the action above observed was of local or reflex origin, the vagi was divided in the neck previous to the introduction of the bitter substances. Under these circumstances (a) the contents of the stomach did not increase, and (b) notwithstanding an increase of acidity the digestive power of the juice was much diminished.

Marcone therefore concludes that the greater part of the effect of bitters is due to stimulation of the vagus endings in the stomach, whence by a reflex action are produced both the increased secretion and the increased peristalsis.—*Supplement British Medical Journal*.

The Gibbes-Shurley Treatment of Phthisis.—We may receive the advent of any new therapeutical system with a sceptical smile. There is certainly no branch of the healing art in which it is more easy to envelop so-called “research” with a pseudo-scientific glamour than therapeutics, to talk “physiology,” which may be, and very probably is, all wrong, but which has an erudite sound, and deeply affects the ignorant by its appearance of learning, to fix up a theory with a little physiology which will fit in—and there is always