after the commencement of the treatment was five days. 2. Excluding one fatal case with cerebral symptoms, and another where there was intercurrent pneumonia, the temperature became normal between the second and the seventh days, the mean duration of pyrexia being a little less than five days and a half. 3. Excluding again the two exceptional cases already mentioned, the total duration of rheumatic fever from the outset varied from seven to fifteen days, giving a mean of ten and a half days. 4. The earlier the iron was given, the shorter was the duration of the disease. No headache or other symptoms of discomfort was produced by the iron.—*British Medical Journal.*

THERAPEUTICS OF CHRONIC CONSTIPATION.

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I do not think that the usual professional treatment of chronic constipation of the bowels is very satisfactory. It appears to aim at the one obtrusive symptom, and to help the patient out of a present difficulty without sufficient reference to a future. It removes the obstacle of to-day by legitimate and easy means, but the obstacle of to-morrow is not prevented; hence what is done to-day must be done again to-morrow, and the remedial formula has an awkward *ad infinitum* look about it. My object in this paper is to try to raise a point of every day practice to a scientific level.

Among the odd idiosyncracies which nature displays in the regulation of the digestive functions, an infrequent evacuation of the bowels is very common; and it is important that this condition be distinguished from the genuine morbid state rightly denominated constipation. For what is natural to a person can in no sense be called a disease. Many persons seem well, and really are well, whose physiology could not be to any one else, without becoming a pathology more or less developed. No strong, hard line can ever be drawn between what is health and what is not health. And it may be declared with absoluteness that if a person who can bear an infrequent flux from the intestines without the slightest apparent inconvenience, it is a part of