

in places and thus hastens dissolution by a mechanical obstruction. Gentlemen whose opinions I cannot but respect, still place their trust in *Argentum nitras*, but its application is very difficult as it could touch only certain places and its effect uncertain, while two or three free applications of a strong solution of the chloride of potassium with a sponge, will almost completely remove the local difficulty and leave you a "fair wind and an open sea." Thus we have viewed chemistry only as an adjunct or chief assistant at our labours, but as we rise in the scale of disease, and find, as we do so, our difficulty increase and our skill more at fault, we may be induced to look to this science as the polar star in our distress, and the guiding spirit to carry us through the storm. I include under one general term the different disorders of this kind, such as albuminuria, tuberculosis, phthisis, &c. I will speak alone of serofula or general cachexia, and of course will not attempt any minutiae of detail. We find an excess of fluid over the solid part of the body as well as deficiency of fibrin or muscular fibre and often total want of some important constituents of health, such as phosphorus and sulphur, or we have excess of hydrogen with loss of nitrogen. On the use and distribution of these two elements depend, almost solely, our hopes of cure, simply using carbonaceous and oxygenated substances as nourishment to keep good the supply and preserve the waste, until we can effect a change in these other elements. That chemical changes do not take place with the same certainty, and regularity in the system influenced by vitality as in the alombic and under our observation, I am willing to admit, but that these changes are more or less definitely and correctly effected while circulating in the blood, I think can be as clearly proven. As an instance—and it constitutes a most important part in our curative process—give for a few days, cod liver oil, with phosphate of lime, and you will detect the dumb-bell crystals of oxalate of lime in the urine. Now this can only be effected by the change of carbonic acid and carbonic oxide into oxalic acid, which from its stronger affinity, sets free the phosphoric acid and unites with the lime; this change is wholly produced in some part of the transit through the circulation.

Raw beef, pounded to shreds, has of late received the approval of the London and continental physicians, as food in these cases, upon physiological reasons, particularly its ready