

digestion after their reflex action. Bitters, and especially the aromatic bitters, are indicated in loss of appetite not due to severe gastric disturbances. In gastric hyperacidity they probably increase the trouble. Of the official aromatic bitters are mentioned only *calamus* and bitter orange peel and their preparation. A number of astringent bitters are enumerated, including some drugs that have been mentioned already in other connections, such as *hydrastis*, *cinchona*, *nux vomica* and *cinicifuga*. Carminatives are agents producing a sense of warmth and well-being; they act as antispasmodics and expel gases from the intestinal canal. They are indicated in pain in the stomach or bowels when this is due to simple indigestion or to distension, but not in case of inflammation, when they would augment the trouble. Many carminatives are household remedies, and the preparations noted here are zingiber, the official mints, *asafetida*, chloroform and ethers, and cloves.

Chapter XVIII of the special article, April 28th, begins with the definition of tonics and a statement that the term implies to a certain extent an inexact knowledge of the real action of the drugs. With better knowledge the importance of the term will decrease. Among tonics we may include stomachics, hematinics, or agents that aid in the regeneration of the blood, and alternatives, the mode of action of which is unknown. Of the hematinics, iron is the first to be considered. The question of its absorbability and the methods by which it may be absorbed are first discussed, and the diversity of opinion as to the actual precursor of the hemoglobin of the blood is shown. As bearing in the value of certain widely advertised hematinic proprietaries, it is stated that, as we can nearly always supply sufficient iron in the food, the so-called "organic" iron preparations are really seldom required. Inorganic iron, on the other hand, according to Bunge, does stimulate the functions concerned in the assimilation of iron when it is abundant in the food, when organic iron added to the food or to organic iron combines with the hydrogen sulphid in the intestine and spares the organic iron precipitation. After an enumeration of the many official preparations of iron, the indications for the drug are taken up. Hematinics are indicated when the amount of the blood or of any of its essential constituents have been greatly reduced. If the patient is able to take an abundance of food, inorganic iron, or both, should be used. The proper selection of food is of the first importance, and a table showing the iron content of a number of common articles of diet, taken from Bunge, is given. Bunge distinctly warns the using of high-priced pharmaceutical iron preparations and calls attention to the value of beef, blood sausage and blood. The last-named seems, however, to be very often ill-borne