

endocrine factor may act reciprocally with the emotional one in influencing the mental life (for example, the depression of hypothyroidism) while any change in the circulation is reflected in the thought-life.

Turning now to the somatic side, it is clear that a chronic intoxication may poison any and every gland of the endocrine group, but it seems probable that the thyroid is the most susceptible to streptococcal infections—from teeth, tonsils and antrum—and that the adrenals have a special susceptibility to *B. coli* invasions. Be that as it may, once the normal equilibrium has been disturbed by sepsis, the path to the neurosis is clear. Again, septic conditions acting directly on the arteries may produce—indeed, must produce—a psychical disorder: either a mere depression or a definite neurosis, as, for instance, asthma in sclerotics. Lastly, that auto-intoxication may act directly in producing mental disorder is probable, though not so obviously certain as has been maintained.

We may now consider somewhat closely the question of these reciprocal actions—that is to say, nervous stimulation of glands and hormonal control of nerves. Opinions are in conflict as to the origin of this phenomenon, but the great weight seems to be on the side of those theories according to which the chemical control is both initiative and ultimate, and the nervous system—central, autonomic, or interactionary—merely a regulating medium within the limits of that control.

We must not forget the value attaching to the doctrine of nervous integration which is now practically established for the vegetative as well as for the central system. But this potentiality of integration is dependent on the *tonus* of the autonomic system, and this tonus, as Cannon has effectually shown, is regulated by the hormones of the endocrine glands.

In this connection Eppinger and Hees have propounded their fascinating, but purely speculative, theory with its interesting clinical picture of “vagatonia” and its theoretical hormone, “automin.” According to these authors the entire vegetative nervous system is under the control of the ductless glands, and since the adrenal bodies are continuously influencing the sympathetic, there must, they conclude, be some substance influencing the cranial or sacral autonomies (whose actions antagonise those of the sympathetic) and so maintaining equilibrium. They have therefore postulated such a secretion, to which they have given the provisional name of “automin,” and they consider that it is most probably produced by the pancreas. Hence they have developed the picture I have just mentioned, of vagatonia