

I will just mention here a few points relative to some of the dangers which may arise from drug remedies. On the 13th of the present month the *British Medical Journal* gives the report of "An inquiry regarding the importance of ill-effects following the use of antipyrin, antifebrin and phenacetin, by the Therapeutic Committee of the British Medical Association." I can only give two or three lines of the ten to eleven close columns of the report, as follows:—"The list of ill-effects noted with antifebrin is not only a very formidable one in itself, but loses none of this character when we consider the frequency of their occurrence." True it is that, as regards the freedom from ill-effects of the three drugs, antifebrin is third and last; phenacetin being first.

We must admit, furthermore, that the ill-effects from the administration of almost any drug may be considerable, even serious, and not be manifested even on close observation for a long period of time; just as we know is the case with certain kinds of food consumed. And when we think for a moment of the complex, intricate nature of the physiological and vital processes going on within the human organism, or of the susceptible nature of the digestive ferments, for example, we can readily understand, theoretically, that the introduction into the body in any way of but a mere trace of some chemical product, even one regarded as mild in its action, may interfere with or disturb, little or much, the process of nutrition, as well as other functions. The same may be said in respect to disturbing in like manner the natural healing processes—to interfering with the formation of nature's germicide, for example, or with the vigorous action of the army of phagocytes. For do as we will or may, nature ever reserves for herself the maximum of power in the direction of the processes of healing. In the words of a paper by Dr. Von Dunhoff, in the *New York Medical Journal*, of a few months ago:—"I submit that however efficient as germicides certain chemical agencies may prove to be in the laboratory, the same impracticability attends them in their adaptation to clinical issues, and renders the effect of their use here either nil or mischievous, as is the case with respect to the