

products of digestion. This, in turn, explains the beneficial effects of the petroleum emulsion on nutrition; its principle of remedial action is not, as in the case with animal oils, to offer impaired nature a food stuff difficult of digestion and sure of irritating already troubled digestive organs.

*Action on Mucous Membranes.*—Some interesting experiments, conducted by Dr. White and Professor Kelly, throw much light upon the specific therapeutic action of Angier's Petroleum Emulsion on mucous membranes. It was found by bacteriologic examination that the petroleum emulsion, even when exposed to the air for days, was entirely free from bacteria. Petroleum emulsion contains no food material upon which bacteria can thrive. This explains the clinical fact that petroleum emulsion relieves the symptoms due to the by-products of the various fermentations, and shows why auto-intoxication—which results from the growth of putrefactive bacteria and their toxins in the intestines—is not possible when Angier's Petroleum Emulsion is administered.

A series of experiments were conducted, in order to determine the effect of petroleum as a vehicle for the administration of intestinal antiseptics. My results corroborated those of Robinson, reported in the *Medical News*, July 14th, 1900. Robinson states: "I have extensively given petroleum four times a day, and reclaimed the oil from the feces, and found it to contain some salol and its components, phenol and salicylic acid. This proves the carrying of a chemical antiseptic and anti-ferment through the entire canal. It is a solvent of iodine, sulphur, beta-naphthol, naphthaline, menthol, thymol, camphor, and iodoform. By combination of any of the antiseptics mentioned with petroleum emulsion, a germ-free condition of the intestinal canal is assured and which is not, according to the highest authority, obtainable by any other means.

A clinical study of petroleum emulsion was now made equally as complete and scientific as the experimental study. Four cases, selected at random from a large series, illustrate the effects of the petroleum emulsion, and are herewith briefly recorded.

No. 1 case had been the victim of a severe railway accident last January, in the form of a violent shock, followed shortly afterwards by loss of flesh, first gradual, then becoming rapid, and in three months, when seen, he had lost twenty-two pounds. He had a nasty cough, with profuse bronchial discharge: looked very ill and thin.

No. 2 case has lost seven pounds, and was uncertain as to the length of time it took. Patient suffered from slight consolidation of the lung, cough and discharge from chest.

No. 3 case had lost five pounds, was suffering from atonic dyspepsia, with flatus and constipation, and feeling weak.