

These cases are caricatures or extreme conditions, but it is from the extreme conditions one learns most. The same or similar symptoms exist in a lesser degree in most advanced cases of stasis.

In the case of the thyroid I have seen a large adenoma of this organ subside with great rapidity after removal of the large bowel, and typical symptoms of exophthalmic goitre of long standing associated with intestinal stasis have also rapidly and permanently disappeared in other cases.

Such, then, are the results of absorption from the alimentary tract. What is the source from which these poisonous products are obtained

They may be absorbed from any portion of the gastro-intestinal tract is a primary absorption from the intestine. This supply may be supplemented by absorption of poisonous products from secondary results of their absorption, such as from suppurating gums or from any secondary infective process communicating or not with the gastro-intestinal tract.

The absorption from the secondary result of autointoxication may in some cases be very considerable and the removal of the absorption from the secondary focus may result in great improvement in the patient's condition, though the source of absorption from the intestine may be uninfluenced by its treatment. The primary absorption from the intestine varies in importance not with the degree of stasis, but rather with the unfitness of that portion of the bowel to deal with organisms, etc., to which it is unaccustomed.

For instance, solid material may remain in the sigmoid flexure or pelvic colon for a considerable time and produce but a moderate amount of autointoxication. On the other hand, the infection of the contents consequent on a very moderate stasis in the small intestine may bring about a very severe condition of autointoxication, while at the same time the mechanical symptoms resulting from it are also much more conspicuous.

I wish particularly to call your attention to the situation of the sites of the sources of excessive absorption of toxins from the gastro-intestinal tract. Since the profession has begun to study the subject of autointoxication in chronic intestinal stasis it has been inclined to assume that the large bowel is the sole source from which these toxins are derived, and it has got into the habit of looking on stasis as merely colonic. In consequence of this operations have been conceived chiefly with the object of facilitating the effluent in the colon and in this manner the chief site of absorption has been overlooked and left untreated.

This is largely due to Metchnikoff's views on the subject. He considers that if we had no large bowel we would live longer. This is per-