

gland. This has been taken to prove that some living organism is the effective cause, but another theory is more probable, as we shall see later.

In the earlier stages, parenchymatous goitre can usually be cured, either by feeding on thyroid extract or by means of potassium iodide. Marine\* has pointed out that in America there was formerly a serious commercial loss in some districts from cretin lambs, and that sheep and dogs with goitre were numerous; the substitution of an iodiferous salt for pure rock-salt has been completely successful in preventing all these manifestations.

Chalmers Watson, and more recently Edmonds, have obtained goitre in fowls by a meat diet. The low iodine-content of the meat makes it necessary for the thyroid to enlarge, so as to take the greatest advantage of what iodine it can get.

There is abundant evidence that iodides, and especially organic combinations of iodine such as iodoform, have great power in enhancing the activity of the thyroid gland. We have already seen that the gland normally secretes iodine in the blood-stream, combined with a globulin. Roos, and more recently Hunt and Seidel, have shown that the activity of the colloid varies directly with the amount of iodine contained in it. When iodides or iodoform are given by mouth, they are taken up by the thyroid and secreted in the blood-stream in the form of iodothyria, the normal active principle of the gland. The amount of iodine in the gland

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\**Johns Hopkins Hosp. Bull.*, 1907, xviii, p. 354.