

ingestion, tannin rapidly unites with the albuminoids present in the contents of the stomach or adhering to the mucous lining, and, therefore, cannot reach the intestines in active form. Applied to mucous membranes, especially if in excess, tannin is prone to cause irritation; it may tan the stomach so intensely as to disable it for weeks. Even after the ingestion of small doses of tannin, especially on an empty stomach, the gastric mucous membrane becomes corroded, the appetite diminishes, and a sense of weight and of pain is felt in the stomach.

"Tannoform, on the other hand, exercises no irritant or corrosive action on the mucous membrane, and is indifferent in doses in which tannin would be deleterious to gastric digestion. Tannoform, being insoluble in water and acids, but soluble in diluted alkalies, is not assimilated in the stomach, and, therefore, reaches the intestinal canal unchanged—that is, in an active form. On taking 0.1 to 0.2 gm. ($1\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 grn.) of tannin into the mouth, a bitter, harsh taste is experienced, and after the taste disappears the mucous membrane of the mouth becomes much irritated. Tannoform, on the contrary, is tasteless, even if taken in quantities of 1 gm. (15 grn.), and exercises no irritating or caustic action on the buccal mucous membrane. The administration of tannic acid (in chronic intestinal catarrh), even in doses of but a few centigrammes, is sometimes followed by vomiting and a sense of pressure in the stomach; whereas, in these same cases, tannoform produces no such symptoms, even when given repeatedly in 1 gm. (15 grn.) doses."

Drs. de Buck and de Moor conclude their paper on the properties of tannoform with the following words (*Belgique Médicale*, 1896, No. 33):

"The clinical observations of which we have given a short account show, in our opinion, clearly enough that tannoform is a really valuable therapeutic agent. As might have been expected from its composition and chemical properties, tannoform has proved to be an excellent intestinal astringent and antiseptic. In this respect its action bears in every sense comparison with that of its congener, tannigen.

"We would more particularly call attention to the local action of tannoform. We have not as yet met with a single case of local hyperidrosis that has refused to yield to the action of tannoform. Often its action is in fact so rapid as to render it necessary to exercise caution in its application, since the sudden suppression of a process of secretion to which the system has become accustomed cannot possibly be treated as a matter of total indifference. We therefore consider it desirable to induce diuresis (by means of diuretic decoctions of milk) as well as to produce purgative effects (by means of podophyllin and belladonna, cascarn, etc.) in all cases where the patient, having suffered for a considerable time from hyperidrosis, requires effective treatment. It should be remarked in this connection that excessive secretion of sweat is a particularly