

# THE PEPSIN QUESTION!

Now, as to the pepsin question. What pepsin do you prescribe, and why? If you will examine the facts we present, you can have only one opinion as to pepsin in future. Circulars fully presenting the claims we make for our scale pepsin, with a sample of it, will be mailed to physicians who wish to investigate it.

We can only say here that in appearance, solubility, digestive strength and permanence, it is far superior, and admittedly so, to any pepsin hitherto introduced.

A careful search through the prescription file of a prominent New York pharmacist reveals the surprising fact that fully 75 per cent of physicians neglect to specify when prescribing pepsin, but simply order "pure pepsin." Now they might as consistently order "solution of cocaine," without designating any particular strength.

"Pure pepsin," as it is known commercially, is not a definite principle; neither has the Pharmacopœa as yet established a standard of strength, and consequently every producer is a law unto himself. It is obvious that digestive activity is the sole criterion of therapeutic value in preparations of the proteolytic ferment, and a physician is consequently enabled to predict with reasonable certainty the comparative effect that may be expected from the various pepsins found in the market.

The following tabulated statement of the comparative quantities that should be prescribed in order to accomplish the same purpose, may, therefore, enable them so to write their prescriptions that the best shall be obtained at the lowest price.

These figures are based on each manufacturer's claim, without regard to the discrepancies that we know to exist; but when the fact is considered that our Pepsinum Purum in Lamellis, with a digestive power of one to 2000 is marketed at a price comparing favorably with that established for many of the inferior varieties, the economy of its employment becomes patent. If it is desired to administer sufficient of the ferment to dissolve 1000 grs. of albumen, obviously  $\frac{1}{2}$  gr. of the aforementioned pepsin will be sufficient. To derive the same therapeutic effect from one for which the manufacturer claims a power of 1200,  $\frac{1}{10}$  gr. will be necessary. A power of 1000, 1 gr.; a power of 900,  $1\frac{1}{10}$  gr.; a power of 700,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  gr.; a power of 500, 2 grs.; a power of 150,  $6\frac{2}{3}$  grs., while a power of 50 (which is the standard adopted by our Pharmacopœia), 20 grs. will be necessary.

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