

impregnation of the natural basins which supply the mineral constituents. From this, as observation teaches us, there arises an extraordinary inconstancy of the chemical constituents. The aperient waters, therefore, form an exception to the mineral springs proper. For medical purposes it is absolutely necessary, in prescribing this water, to know the dose. It has happened not infrequently that a wineglassful of aperient water has been shown to contain the same amount of mineral constituents as the practitioner would, from the analysis, expect to be present in a tumblerful. It is obvious, therefore, that neither the practitioner nor the patient can form a correct opinion in this manner; and under these circumstances it may even happen that an unexpectedly great degree of concentration may do harm by useless irritation of the intestines. There is a further disadvantage arising from changes in mineral constituents, so that, instead of the sulphates which the water should contain, chlorides are present in an injurious amount. The opinion has very often been expressed that the bottling of such waters should be under scientific control, so that their proper constitution should be ensured exactly in the same way as that of other medicines is regulated by the *Pharmacopœia*.

It is, therefore, a matter for high satisfaction that the aperient water, "Apenta," from the Uj Hunyadi Springs in Ofen, has been placed under State control. The Royal Hungarian Chemical State Institute (Ministry of Agriculture) has undertaken this charge, and, therefore, it is now possible to obtain a water which is free from injurious extraneous waters infected with organic substances. The analysis has been published by Professor Liebermann, Director of the said Institute. The proportion of sulphate of soda to sulphate of magnesia is 15.432 to 24.4968 in the litre, so that this water is to be classed with the best aperient waters, and may be pronounced one of the strongest. Owing to the constancy of the Apenta water ensured by the State guarantee, that confidence in aperient waters which had been lost will be revived in favor of this important therapeutic agent. The constancy of the Apenta water makes the use of it indicated not only as an occasional purgative, but in systematic courses of treatment. It is particularly recommended for the regulation of tissue change in the most diverse diseases, in obesity, chronic constipation, portal obstruction, hæmorrhoids. Whether the lithia contained in this water is of any therapeutic importance is at present doubtful, but its presence is a distinctive feature in the analyses.—From the *Therapeutische Monatshefte*, Berlin, June, 1896.