

PHYSIOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES IN TREATMENT

CHAPTER I

THE PRINCIPLES OF ORGANO-THERAPY

WHENEVER we give a drug, we imply thereby a belief that the functions of the body can be influenced by chemical means. And we can find support for this confidence in the fact that the body itself produces chemical substances whereby it regulates its own functions.

Nothing could be more reasonable than to use intelligently in disease those very drugs by which the body is enabled to do its own work in health. This is the basis of a rational organo-therapy, as Starling has so clearly indicated.

Though the use of organic extracts has enormously increased during the last decade, it is but the renaissance of a very ancient method. Celsus and Galen testify to the antiquity of organo-therapy. The first Pharmacopœia, published by the College of Physicians