

efficacious ingredient of these uric acid remedies, because abundant water-drinking combined with a rational diet, the details of which cannot be enumerated here, undoubtedly acts beneficially in most disorders in which metabolism is retarded and in which incompletely oxidized waste products accumulate.

Until we understand the real cause of gout and allied conditions, until we know which produces the symptoms that are popularly considered to be manifestations of a hypothetical uric acid diathesis, we can do no better than to treat the gastrointestinal tract and the liver, to promote elimination, and give the patient the benefit of certain symptomatic and local treatment.

If alkali and water are to be used, and we know empirically that they are of some benefit, why not order our patients to drink a few quarts of water a day, to which may be advantageously added a teaspoonful or so of baking soda and a pinch or two of precipitated chalk? This would accomplish all that can possibly be claimed for their goods by promoters of a host of expensive mineral waters and the manufacturers of most of our well-advertised so-called uric acid remedies.—*Journal of the American Medical Association.*

### **Bacteriuria.**

Bacteriuria, understanding by the term the presence of bacteria in the urinary tract above the compressor urethrae muscle, is, according to G. P. La Roque, a much more common condition than is generally supposed. Unless associated with suppuration it produces none of the symptoms of true inflammation in a healthy person, but such may follow in conditions of lessened vital resistance. Local symptoms, when present, are: Slight increased frequency of micturition, mild ardor urinae, occasionally incontinence, and in children there may be nervous disturbances. If no abrasions exist, toxins are not absorbed. In many cases there are no subjective symptoms. The most common infecting organism is the *Bacillus coli*, and it is present in nearly all cases, often in pure culture. In some cases of typhoid bacteriuria it is absent. Alkalinity of the urine means the presence of the staphylococcus or *Bacillus proteus vulgaris*; all other organisms, these being absent, produce an acid urine. When the bacteria come by way of the kidneys, as in typhoid septicemia or scarlatina, there is always a positive albuminuria. When they enter from the genitalia or the lower intestinal tract, the presence of albuminuria is dependent on the previous condition of the kidneys. The history will probably suggest the causative germ. In treating the condition, urinary and intestinal