

logical difficulty of the passage of an insoluble substance through the cell-walls), or whether fat is derived from the disintegration of the albuminates, or, again, from the carbo-hydrates. It is most probable that fat can be derived from both of these latter foods, or from either one or the other upon necessity. As a proof of this, it has been ascertained that the honey-bee can make wax (an oleaginous substance) when fed on pure sugar alone. The view most generally held now, and probably the most correct one, is that the fat taken is converted into a soap by the action of the pancreatic juice and the alkali of the biliary acids, in which form its passage through the intestinal epithelium and fat cell-walls would be comparatively easy. Without further discussing this matter, it is more pertinent to our present purpose to consider the pathological condition which enables fat to traverse the whole length of the intestinal canal unabsorbed, and be discharged with or without the stools per anum. This can occur in only one of two ways. Either from the ingested food-fat passing undigested and, consequently, unabsorbed through the whole tract of the intestines; or, secondly, directly from the fat stored up in the system becoming reabsorbed, and then discharged into the intestines, to be discharged as before. It is not likely that both conditions would exist at one and the same time; and to discover which of these causes is existent in any particular case is sometimes more difficult than one might at first imagine. Its solution would depend upon a careful comparison of all food ingested that was capable of supplying fat with the amount of fat discharged. When this amount is found to be greater than can be accounted for by the ingested food, it would seem as if no other resource was open to us but to look to the adipose tissues of the body as the storehouse from which the fat is derived. Many observers are sceptical as to the possibility of this latter condition, and think the error arises from a want of careful comparison between the food ingested and the fat discharged, and, perhaps, from trusting too much to the exaggerated statements of the patients themselves. On the other hand, Dr. Wells, in the *New York Med. Times*, in 1854, reports a case where the patient abstained from fat and fatty foods for several weeks, without any apparent de-