

somatose, which is devoid of the objectionable features of the meat peptones, and seems destined to occupy a high place in dietetics: and for this reason it is desirable that the laity should also be acquainted with its character and manner of employment.

Somatose is a yellowish, odorless, granular powder, readily soluble in aqueous fluids which contain all the nutritive elements of meat in a predigested form, thus differing from the meat broths formerly in use, which, whether prepared from fresh meat or meat extracts, represent only the savory but not the valuable nutrient constituents of meat. Hence the so called strong beef broths, which are still regarded as nutrients, although anything but nourishing and unable to produce a gain in flesh, should be entirely discarded. On the other hand, somatose constitutes a food for the weakened organism which is capable of producing a real strengthening effect, since it is really absorbed without taxing the digestive organs, exerts a direct action on the formation of blood, and at once takes part in nutrition. Aside from this undoubted advantage of somatose over meat

broths, it is superior to peptones especially, because it can be dissolved in milk, cocoa, gruels, bouillon, according to the patients' preference, does not provoke repugnance, as is so frequently observed in the administration of peptones. It is relished by the most fastidious patients, and need not be discontinued like badly-tasting peptone preparations.

This point is of supreme importance, for any interruption in the supply of albuminous food not only arrests any further increase of nutrition, but produces a marked retrogression, neutralizing the favorable results so laboriously obtained and postponing a complete cure to an indefinite period. From what has just been said the laity will appreciate the great value of a food product like somatose, which needs never to be discontinued in all cases where it is necessary to rapidly replace tissues which have undergone degeneration from fever or other severe disturbances; for the more promptly that this restoration occurs the more rapid will be the course of the curative process. There are other facts, however, that will speak in favor of this new meat preparation. Somatose

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