

By careful attention to the other signs, if one determines the time when the acid catarrh changes into the mucous, one can determine whether the case has gone to scarring or malignant degeneration. The stomach is washed out during fasting in the morning, later on it is again washed out after a trial breakfast; and, lastly, still on the same day, after a trial dinner. If free hydrochloric acid is absent in one of the washings, and is markedly present in the others, there is evidence that the acid catarrh is passing into the mucous. Sigel finds that at times this method may help one to a correct diagnosis, but it fails one in other cases. The great discomfort of having the stomach washed out three times in one day falls away when one considers that this test is only to be applied in cases when the diagnosis is either simple or malignant ulcer of the stomach, and since the correct decision is of so much importance to the patient that if the position is explained to him he will readily submit to the test. The fourth test is the testing for fatty acids in the urine. Rosenfeld found that in gastric ulcer and gastrectasis, with normal acidity or hyperacidity, the volatile fatty acids in the urine are much increased; in stasis of the contents of the stomach depending on pyloric scar or gastroptosis with subacidity or anacidity, the fatty acids are either little or greatly increased. Sigel has also tested the truth of this statement, and finds that one cannot base either a diagnosis or differential diagnosis on this analysis. He therefore is forced to the conclusion that none of these methods is capable of forming a certain diagnosis of sarcoma of the stomach, and one must therefore rely on the physical and other well-tried signs, and spare no pains in attempting to elicit in each case all the data on which one may be able to build up a correct diagnosis.—*British Medical Journal*.

The Action of Organic Extracts on Arterial Pressure.

Patta (Inaugural Dissertation Pavia, 1904) experimented with a number of organic extracts to determine their influence on arterial pressure, and sums his results as follows: The considerable increase in blood pressure, as produced by the extract of the suprarenal bodies, is independent of any action of the vasomotor centre; nor can it be ascribed exclusively to a peripheral constriction of blood vessels, but must be credited to a large extent to increased cardiac work. The peripheral constriction of the blood vessels is not produced by the action of the extract on the terminal filaments of the nervi vasorum. The slowing of the pulse produced by the extract depends upon an irritation of the cardiac filaments of the vagus; it is believed to be due to the action of that part of the drug, which comes