

grow less in about four days and ceased entirely in one week. There was a marked improvement in general condition. Local treatment entirely removed the tenderness and abraded condition of cervix. Ergoapiol (Smith) was administered several days before next menstrual period and resulted in a very satisfactory period. In this case it appears to me the remedy saved the patient the ordeal of curettement, acting as a prompt uterine stimulant. Her condition locally and generally has since steadily improved.

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### Do Drugs Ever "Cure"?

In the layman's mind there is absolutely no doubt of the power of drugs to produce a "cure." To cure a disease by means of a drug or a combination of drugs, seems to him no more wonderful than to patch up a piece of broken china with a little cement. The same idea existed in every physician's mind up to seventy or eighty years ago—and is still entertained by a good many old-fashioned doctors. The study of pathology changed the prevalent notion of the "curative" power of drugs; it was seen that a dose of ammonium carbonate could have no direct effect on a consolidated pneumonic lung, nor could a dose of opium produce a retrograde metamorphosis in an inflamed peritoneum. It, therefore, became fashionable to sneer at drugs as curative agents. The *vis medicatrix naturæ* does it all—without it drugs are worthless. Admitting that this is so, that the real cure is produced by Nature, do not the drugs help toward a cure, by helping Nature to exert her curative action, by removing obstacles, by clearing the sewer pipes, etc.? When a man breaks his leg and a skilful surgeon puts the fragments in proper position, applies a splint, and the fragments unite without leaving the least trace of deformity—who has produced the cure? The surgeon? He has and he hasn't. Because, without Nature's reparative process, without the callus, no surgical skill would be of any avail. We have many such instances in very old people, in whom in spite of the best treatment the fragments refuse to unite. But, on the other hand, without the fragments being put in the proper position, a great deformity may result, or the fracture may remain ununited in spite of a superabundance of Nature's reparative callus. And so it is with drugs in the hands of a skilful physician. Nature produces the cure, but drugs coax Nature to stop her mischief, tide the patient over the danger period, and thus give Nature a chance.—*Merck's Archives*.