

NEW OBSERVATIONS ON THE TREATMENT OF ANEMIA AND CHLOROSIS.

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For many years attempts have been made to discover a means of promoting the nutrition of the organism in cases of gastric and intestinal diseases and their consequences, in anemia and chlorosis as well as tuberculosis. The chief attention was naturally directed to the albuminous substances, since from the experimental physiology of digestion it appears that these possess the most nutritive value. It was not until the last few years that it was found possible to isolate by chemical means substances necessary for the nutrition of the body from the albumin of muscles. The first attempt in this direction were meat extracts, which, however, in place of albuminoids, contained extractive matter, that is the various organic salts, as well as some peptones. Hence the object sought for was not obtained, the more so since experiments in feeding with extracts led to very unfavorable results. Thus, for instance, of two pigs which were deprived of food in order to determine the amount of disintegration of organic albumin, the one received nothing, while the other was fed on meat extracts, with the result that in the latter the tissue albumin was not spared, as had been expected: but, on the contrary, more rapidly oxidized than in the former animal. This showed that meat extract has no value as a direct nutriment, and that its action is to be sought only in the stimulation of the gastro-intestinal mucous membrane. As a result of further experiments it was thought useful to administer to patients easily digestible proteid combinations obtained by submitting albumins to various stages of artificial digestion, with the expectation that they would thus be rendered fit for immediate absorption. The outcome of these experiments were the peptones, which, aside from their unpalatability, have but slight nutritive value, as they are incapable of being converted into organic albumin in the body.

Recently it has been found possible to prepare an albuminous body in an almost pure form which fulfils all the indications of a true nutritive agent. This preparation, known as somatose, has gained a prominent place among the reconstructives at the disposal of the physician. It contains that form of albumin known as albumoses, that is the deuterio and hetero albumoses, to the amount of 90 per cent. These proteid bodies occupy an intermediate stage between albumins and peptones, are readily assimilable and capable of absorption in the body in their own form, and easily convertible into organic albumin. Somatoes