

The conditions of a rational drug therapy are:

- (1) An accurate diagnosis.
- (2) An accurate knowledge of the drug.
- (3) A definite object in view in its administration.
- (4) As far as possible it should be given uncombined.
- (5) Enough, and no more than enough, should be given to secure the desired result.

The objections to the commonly used drug preparations are:

- (1) They are uncertain and variable in their composition and strength.
- (2) They are indefinite and unreliable in their effects.

These objections can be overcome, and a rational system of therapeutics evolved, by using single definite substances, alkaloids, or active principles of known composition, properties, and reactions, capable of producing definite results. The advantages of this method, which has been called the dosimetric or alkaloidal system, are simplicity, efficiency, accuracy, uniformity, safety, ease of administration, and palatability.

#### DISCUSSION BY V. E. HENDERSON.

Dr. Acheson's able plea for a more rational use of drugs in therapeutics has undoubtedly found among us sympathetic ears and widespread approval. It especially appeals to one, who, like myself, is especially interested in teaching pharmacology and therapeutics. I think, too, that all of us will agree with him when he urges the more exclusive use of drugs whose action is known. By known I would be understood to mean those drugs which have been thoroughly tested by competent pharmacologists and physicians. Daily new drugs are brought to the attention of each one of us by proprietary houses interested in their sale. Many of these preparations are said to have been carefully tested in the laboratories of the firms that have prepared them. I am far from deerying the chemists and pharmacologists in the employment of the more reputable of these firms; on the contrary, I would be the first to acknowledge the valuable and careful scientific work done in the laboratories of such firms as Parke, Davis & Co., or Borroughs, Welcome & Co. But I ask, is it fair to expect that employes of such firms should be entirely free from bias in the judgment of their own productions. Anyone who has spent months in the perfecting of any piece of work is naturally inclined to rate it too highly. Further, in many cases these drugs are accompanied by reports of physicians usually quite unknown to us, and often when known completely unsatisfactory on account of their evident