

gastric or intestinal troubles should be readily digestible. They should not distend the alimentary canal or act as useless ballast, but should be so constituted that a minimum quantity possesses a maximum of nutritive value. Albumens, fats, carbohydrates and salts must be mixed in such proportions that their administration is followed equally by heat production, formation of fatty tissue and albuminous compensation, and that the blood and muscular system remain in a good condition.

The diseased organism must be strengthened in all its parts; the muscles must not be allowed to become pale and thin, the blood watery or deficient in corpuscles and coloring matter, the bones poor in lime salts, and there must not be too great a loss of fatty tissue. To accomplish this object the introduction of readily digestible albuminous food is requisite, and in sufficient quantity to meet the increased consumption of albumens, especially present in fevers, for numerous experiments have uniformly led to the result that more albumen is used up in febrile conditions. Inasmuch as a far larger quantity of products of nitro-

genous decomposition is excreted than the amount of nitrogen in the food, this decomposition must take place at the expense of the organism as soon as the original supply of albumen circulating in the blood has been used up. While in the diseased organism the albumen of the organs undergoes decomposition, in the healthy organism this applies only to the albumen taken in the food. We must, therefore, administer to our patients as much albumen as they are able to digest; in that way it is possible to preserve the albumen of the body, for although there is, on the whole, a greater nitrogenous excretion, less of this nitrogenous waste is derived from the organism. Efforts have been made to attain this object by the administration of preparations of meat peptones, which represent food products in which the albuminous elements of meat (which represents our most concentrated albuminous aliment, containing five times as much albumen as milk) are present in a soluble and readily digestible form. As, however, the meat peptones previously in the market have many disadvantages, attention is directed here to a new meat preparation named

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