

their contents into a more liquid state, and thus pass on to the *colon*, thus accomplishing the same result with its more solid contents, etc., all of which, in my judgment, is a serious mistake.

A cathartic is dissolved in the stomach by the action of the gastric juice, and it then goes at once into the circulation, through the invisible absorbents of that organ, and only acts as a cathartic by exciting the secretory and excretory processes of the system which discharge into the intestines, through like invisible pores of their mucous membrane, the solvent fluid which dissolves the excrementitious contents, but especially so of the *colon*. This is a frightful process, to say the least, and a most absurd roundabout way of getting at and cleansing out of the *colon*, while, as a rule, not more than half accomplishing the object, though at a terrible cost to the vital fluids of the system.

Compared to the present system of drug administration, for keeping in order the machinery of the body, the new treatment, so thoroughly demonstrated in my own case during forty years, is a positive and most startling revolution which must command the respect of the thinking world.

At the time of my life-and-death struggle, so often referred to in this pamphlet, I reasoned with myself, from the premises substantially as here set forth, that if the colon at given periods could be thoroughly cleansed of its more deleterious contents mechanically, on the ordinary principles of hydraulic action, it would instantly give room for the discharge of the less putrid contents of the small intestine through the *ileo-cæcæ* valve into the vacuum thus formed, while this second partial vacancy above would allow the *duodenum* and stomach to rid themselves of any unduly detained food, perhaps in a state of fermentation, half-digested and already generating the deleterious acid which so often in duodenitis sets one's teeth on edge.