

But Combe has undertaken to show that intestinal auto-intoxication does actually occur, and may be recognized by well-marked symptoms. The work seems to be scientific, and will supply the reader with plenty of food for thought.

Boas, in the Berlin Medical Clinic, No. 39, says that he has never observed a case of what is usually called "spastic obstipation," although he has been on the lookout for fifteen years. He finds spasm of the colon in neurotic persons with healthy bowels; in intestinal disturbances, with either diarrhœa or constipation; in chronic colitis or sigmoiditis, and in carcinoma of the rectum. The spastic condition of the colon frequently accompanies general neurasthenia, occurring at intervals, without any special type of stool. He makes extensive use of oil enemas when relief is not obtained from habitual constipation by first trying dietetic measures. The efficacy of the oil, considered by some to be specific for "spastic obstipation," does not depend at all upon the nature of the obstipation or on the shape of the stools. Oil injections, a diet rich in cellulose, and the sedative action of belladonna, are useful in many cases of habitual constipation, but are not curative. In conclusion, he states that the whole structure of spastic obstipation is built on sinking sand.

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LEHRBUCH DER HEBAMMENKUNST. Von Dr. Bernhard Sigmund Schultze. Wirtl. Geheimer Rat, off. ord. Prof. der Geburtshilfe zu Jena, Mitglied der Medizinalkommission des Grossherzogtums Sachsen. Vierzehnte, verbesserte auflage. Mit 103 Abbildungen. Leipzig: Verlag von Wilhelm Englemann, 1908.

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APPLIED SURGICAL ANATOMY. Regionally presented, for the Use of Students and Practitioners of Medicine. By George Woolsey, A.B., M.D., Professor of Anatomy and Clinical Surgery in the Cornell University Medical College; Surgeon to Bellevue Hospital; Associate Surgeon to the Presbyterian Hospital; Fellow of the American Surgical Association and of the New York Academy of Medicine. Second Edition. Enlarged and thoroughly revised, with 200 illustrations, including 59 plates, mostly colored. Lea & Febiger, New York and Philadelphia. 1908.