The substances employed in these conditions will be modifiers of nutrition by opposition to the modifiers of the nervous system, of the muscular system of the heart, and circulation, etc., which concern themselves more especially with a tissue or determined structure. But it is not necessary to disguise them, as there is an apparent precision only in the definition; and, just as we have already many a time observed the same substance re-enters into several different groups, according to the diligence with which we seek to realize it. Whatever may be done on the other hand, it is not possible to avoid a complexity of actions due to an influence exercised simultaneously on certain tissues or structures and on the vital medium.

But all modification, even weak and transient of the medium, necessarily reacts on the anatomical elements which should find in this medium the necessary substances for their maintenance and their renewal, that is for their life. And this reaction will necessarily transform itself by transient or lasting modifications according to the intensity of the impregnation, the delicacy and responsiveness of the impressioned anatomical element, the renewal or prolongation of the influences. These cosiderations permit the understanding of, among other things, the fundamental importance of the alimentary regime. It is extremely probable that these general modifications of the fixed elements of life create the morbid aptitude or confer immunity. In all cases this alteration of the physico-chemic constitution of the vital medium ought to cause a change in the activity with which the cells elaborate matter, namely, a modification more or less profound in nutrition, in succession to a variation in the proportion of immediate principles, by the diminuation, the suppression, or the addition of certain substances, which necessitate a change in the composition of the blood and the juices constituting the vital medium of the cells, which bring about an alteration in the physico-chemic constitution of the anatomical elements, rendering possible in them the accumulation or the disappearance of such or such an immediate principle, determining in them the formation of abnormal substances, troubling the anatomical state of these elements and preventing the performing of their functions.

Modifications thus produced do not depend solely on the quality, the quantity, and the relative proportion of the various ingesta; they are influenced by the actions of the important organs, which elaborate, distribute and eliminate these materials; but they are above all subordinated to the vital activity of each cell and governed by that great regulator of the organic acts—the nervous system. And we are led back to the consideration of the modifiers of nutrition as the indirect modifiers of the