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REMARKS ON CHEMICAL CHANGES IN THE ANIMAL BODY.*

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At the present time a great deal of attention is given to the study of chemical changes of normal metabolism and of morbid disturbances of disease. This is due, no doubt, to the great advances made in recent times in physiological as well as in physical and organic chemistry. Scientists are becoming to look upon phenomena of life as manifestations of chemical change. Thus it is probable that chemical change is at the bottom of every conception formed by the cerebrum; of every impulse sent out from it; of reflex actions; of muscular contraction; of secretion of glands, and of every pathological change in the tissues of the body. This makes a great field of study that is only beginning to be explored with that vigorous activity which merits success. It would appear as if the minds of chemists, physicists, physiologists and pathologists are now only becoming sufficiently ripe for the successful study.

It may be of interest to recall to mind some of the recent advances in organic, physical and physiological chemistry which have tended to bring about the present favorable condition for the study of the chemistry of living matter.

Less than a century ago chemists were very much in the dark with regard to the organic compounds which occur and

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