

ferments, after their penetration into the economy give rise to the manifestations of a real poisoning. Such is the explanation of the strange phenomena offered by those who suffer of what is commonly called gastric embarrassment, indigestion, biliousness, flatulence, dyspepsia. To prevent this state of things we have a double means at our disposal : destroy the microbes by intestinal antisepsy and expel them from the alimentary canal by purgatives.

Here we shall remark how much the interesting researches in putrid fermentations of the intestines justify the traditional medication of our forefathers, and the physicians ridiculed by Molière were not altogether wrong after all, when they gave so much importance to the reiterated expulsion of atrabiliary humours upon which depended most of the evils that afflicted their clients.

But that is not all; there is something better than to cure an evil when it has been produced ; the ideal is to prevent it. Well, it is a known fact that animal food, such as meat and fish, is the aliment that contains the greatest quantity of germs: moreover, we may consider all albuminoid compounds as the most favorable soil for the origin and development of ferments ; consequently for the production of these toxic alkaloids.

You may, perhaps think that these considerations upon such a wonderful subject as bacteriology, have altogether made me forget our bill of fare. Not at all, and you will see that the conclusion of what I have just said will naturally bring me back to the starting point of this long digression. In fact, if we ever should find ourselves in presence of these disorders commonly called flatulent dyspepsia our first duty may be the getting rid, by the free administration of purgatives, of the morbid products gathered in the stomach. But this is not everything; we must above all suppress from alimentation all albuminoid food, since it constitutes the *materia prima* of this excess of morbid fermentation.

Still the patient must be fed. Here is where the usefulness of milk comes in, since that aliment is a complete food, as I have already said, since it is the nitrogenous nutrient which contains the smallest quantity of toxic germs. By the administration of this precious liquid food, we shall have suspended all mechanical work from the suffering stomach, which will be then in the position of a broken arm laid at rest