

with a double stream, which much facilitates the washing out of the stomach, but in which the tube whence the liquids issue is, as a matter of necessity, restricted, which is a serious inconvenience. The method of introduction, as described by M. Bucquoy, is as follows. The tube being slightly moistened with water (M. C. Paul recommends that it should be greased with vaseline during the first few days only), the patient takes the free end of the tube, places it in the pharynx, and pushes it slightly, making a swallowing movement. He repeats this swallowing movement a certain number of times, guiding the tube with the hand; this penetrates into the stomach rather rapidly; and the patient stops when he sees near his lips a mark traced at from forty-five to fifty centimetres from the free end then lying along the large curve of the stomach. To charge the siphon, the patient pours alkaline water into the receiver; and, after having filled it, raises it above his head until the liquid has entered almost entirely. At this moment he lowers the receiver below the level of the stomach, and above the basin. The cylinder becomes filled immediately with the contents of the stomach; and it will be seen that there returns a more considerable quantity of liquid than has been introduced, bringing with it the residue of digestion.

The operation is repeated a certain number of times, and as often as necessary, until the water returns in an almost limpid state. Alkaline water is generally employed for these operations. M. Constantin Paul has found that the silicated water of Sail, or an antiseptic solution containing thymol or hyposulphite of soda, is useful. To conclude the operation, he pours into the stomach two or three hundred grammes of milk. The first liquids injected are tepid, because they cleanse the parts better; the later ones are cold, because they form a better coating for the mucous membrane, and induce contraction more easily. In certain serious cases, the operation is renewed twice daily; in ordinary cases, once only at the beginning, then less frequently afterwards. Whatever may be the nature of the gastric affection thus treated, according to M. Paul, good results are almost immediately

obtained; in the first place, cessation of the pain; then the appearance, at the end of some days, of spontaneous action (in the case of dilatation); finally, a reappearance of the appetite, and a much more rapid augmentation of weight than would be believed. At the present time, washing out of the stomach is no longer limited to dilatation, as it was at first. It is applied to various affections. M. Paul quotes cases of gastralgia, of hysterical vomiting, of gastric ulcer, which have been thus completely cured. He has thus been able to greatly relieve the sufferings of a woman who had faecal vomiting, and who suffered from an umbilical hernia; finally, in cancer of the stomach, the symptoms are very much relieved, and it is possible even to bring on a notable temporary improvement. MM. Bucquoy and Ferrand have also observed cases of cure of simple ulcer. M. Debove likewise has reported, in the *Progrès Médical*, an extremely remarkable case of cure of a patient suffering from a simple ulcer, probably very old in origin, with absolute intolerance of the stomach, and a state of extreme cachexia. The favourable results obtained were almost immediate; and, at the end of six weeks, the patient, who had increased from one hundred to one hundred and twenty-five grammes daily, was on the road to complete recovery.

Professor Germain Sée, in his treatise on gastro-intestinal dyspepsia, relates a certain number of cases which well demonstrate the utility of this method in gastric affections of very different kinds. He speaks of the case of a young girl suffering from serious anorexia, with invincible refusal of all nourishment, who had reached the last stage of marasmus, and who was treated for six months with this mechanical treatment. Dr. Sée has also seen obstinate vomiting thus stopped; cancer is greatly relieved, and dyspepsia of the cachectic form, which seemed of the nature of cancer, has been completely cured. In the last case, as well as being a means of treatment, it forms a true method of diagnosis. This brief enumeration shows the great importance of this new mode of treatment, which unites perfect harmlessness to very great facility of employment, since, up to the present time, not a single accident has been known to occur from the operation.—*British Medical Journal*.