

## Miscellany.

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### A TRIBUTE TO PAPOID.

Laboratory tests and clinical experiences like new friends often disagree.

To harmonize and adjust clinical discrepancies which are based on laboratory inferences, leads into rather uncertain roads and the contradictions of the ardent explorers makes uncertain tempers and often fools of wise men.

The list of new remedies never seemed so crowded as it is at the present time.

The claims, vauntings and pleas for recognition of their various merits from the discoverer to the manufacturer are endless. One cannot help wondering why all physicians should not be greater doubting Thomas'.

The drug we are considering, Papoid, is not really to be classed among the strictly new remedies, yet its merits are not fully recognized.

When pitted in the arena with pepsin it has but a chance in the estimation of the busy physician. It has taken many years to fasten pepsin upon his confidence. It will take more time before he relinquishes his allegiance in favor of a rival.

It will take many recommendations, of the circus poster dimensions, to attract attention. The incredulous smile or shrug of the shoulders shows he may be looking but has no faith.

We do not blame him, yet like the good Samaritan, if we see our aid, in a good cause, is needed, though no matter how humble or meagre the service, it should be rendered.

Our prompting, to enter the lists, in favor of papoid, and which makes us offer tribute in its praise, is the

"positive" and "absolutely correct" conclusions of a late writer,<sup>1</sup> viz:

"That the Pawpaw melon and its derivatives, as manufactured in this country, are worthless."

This infers that foreign makes may be of some utility. The absolutely correct conclusions become erroneous in the light of the fact that Pawpaw melons and their derivative compound, papoid, are not made in this country.

Pawpaw melons are fruit, and not manufactured, and and papoid is manufactured, from them and other parts of the plant, *abroad*, in Germany.

The fact of the author's not mentioning having used papoid in his experiments leads us to judge that he either has not done so, or does not desire to squarely criticise it under its recognized name. We believe his references are applied to some inert domestic preparations of the *carica papaya*.

We have no knowledge, of any writer or careful observer of the action of papoid, having ever said anything detrimental of it as a digestive ferment. Any one who will read Professor Chittenden's carefully prepared monograph on "Papoid Digestion" cannot help but feel impressed with the fact that in this vegetable substance we possess a wonderful and reliable proteolyte.

The following brief conclusions from Professor Chittenden's experiments are interesting and so we will quote them in full:

1. "That papoid is a true, soluble digestive ferment, or mixture of ferments, of vegetable origin.
2. "That it has marked proteolytic action in acid, alkaline and neutral solutions and in the presence of many chemicals, antiseptics and therapeutic agents.
3. "That it has a peculiar softening and disintegrating action on proteids, and that its general proteolytic action is that of a genuine digestive ferment similar to the ferments of animal origin.

<sup>1</sup> G. T. Hunter, M.D., "Digestion and Digestive Ferments," Medical Record, February 4, 1893. Page 140, middle of second column.

<sup>2</sup> Transactions of the Connecticut Academy, Vol. IX, 1892.

4. "That it has a certain amount of amylolytic or starch dissolving power.

5. "That it has a marked rennet-like action upon milk and a pronounced digestive action upon milk-casein.

6. "That it exerts its peculiar digestive power at a wide range of temperatures.

7. "That the ordinary conditions of health and disease in the stomach and intestines are not liable to check its action, while certain possible conditions may accelerate it."

These conditions are confirmed by Herschell<sup>3</sup> and Woodbury.<sup>4</sup>

Herschell says:

(a.) "It has a distinct tonic action on the secreting mechanism of the stomach, stimulating the secretion of gastric juice.

(b.) "It has a local sedative action relieving pain in a marked degree, and this it does, whether the pain is due to the presence of irritating ingesta or, is a local neuralgia.

(c.) "It dissolves unhealthy mucus, coating the interior of the stomach, and interfering with the gastric secretions and absorption by the stomach walls.

(d.) "It is distinctly antiseptic in its action. It thus prevents abnormal fermentative processes from taking place in the stomach and intestines."

These things said of papoid are said over and over again by many others. We have studied the action of this substance clinically for over a year, chemically in its predigestion of milk, egg albumen, and fresh blood. It has served us well in preparing absorbing rectal nutrient injections. The brilliancy and reliability of its control over abnormal fermentative processes in the digestive tract to us is a fact. Its emphatic control over certain forms of diarrhoea and vomitings, and its inhibitory action on the formation of mucus, and its dissolving action upon this class of abnormal secretions, are not creatures of imagination. Its practical sedative action in

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<sup>3</sup> New York Medical Journal, July 30, 1892.

<sup>4</sup> "Manual of Modern Treatment of Dyspepsia."

cases where pain is conjoined with the hosts of other digestive disorders, stamps papoid alone as of incalculable value.

We can now truthfully affirm that papoid has earned a high place in the estimation of hundreds of sufferers, and he who will fairly investigate its action, clinically, will testify, that, at least in its case, laboratory information has not mislead.

The tenacity of its digestive action on albumenoids and carbo-hydrates as well, under most any conditions, and in most any media, gives us a surety of confidence that it must act throughout the gastro-intestinal tract. This may be what Doctor Arch. Dixon means by his "Papoid conditions<sup>5</sup>," when he says:

"Papoid, under papoid conditions, produces greater results than animal pepsin under pepsin conditions, for papoid certainly exerts its power under a variety of associations and conditions."

While other animal ferments only act under special conditions, papoid is indicated in all forms of disorder of the digestive tract. Not only in the various dyspeptic states, diarrhoea and more severe associated organic changes, but it also will be found of value in disorders which not only engender deranged digestion, but which are often abetted by this condition as well; such as anæmia, rheumatism, gout, diabetes, nurasthænia, and Bright's disease.

As a proteid its action is not by any means confined alone to membranes. Its absorption is probable, and its action upon the blood and distant organs is not pure fancy.

As an adjuvant to the treatment of typhoid fever and the gastro-intestinal disturbances of other contagious and infectious diseases, it must not be forgotten.

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<sup>5</sup> Doctor's Weekly, December 24, 1892.