THE EXAMINATION OF THE FUNCTION OF THE INTESTINES BY MEANS OF THE TEST-DIET

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The Examination of the Function of the Intestines by Means of the Test-Diet by Adolf Schmidt & Charles D. Aaron

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ADOLF SCHMIDT & CHARLES D. AARON

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BY MEANS OF

THE TEST-DIET

ITS

APPLICATION IN MEDICAL PRACTICE AND ITS DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC VALUE

BY

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AUTHORIZED TRANSLATION FROM THE LATEST GERMAN EDITION

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PREFACE.

THE following pages owe their origin to a series of lectures, which I delivered in the summer of 1903 at the instance of my colleagues. They sum up for medical purposes the results of my continued investigations and observations for about eight years. The desire to obtain an examination for the function of the intestines, that could be carried out in practice, analogous to the usual examinations of the stomach contents, and to advance by means of it the diagnosis and therapeutics of the diffuse intestinal diseases, in the same way as it has already been accomplished in the pathology of the stomach, was the incentive which led me on from the beginning. The great deviations, which my investigations and those of my co-worker, Dr. Strasburger, had to make in order to secure a scientifically established basis for our practical methods, have made it impossible to put this goal in the foreground, as I had it in mind to do. For this reason and partly also because our works were scattered in the special literature, our methods for examining the function of the intestine have not vet been able to secure a firm footing in practice. To many they at first seemed too complicated, a fault, which, I hope, has been almost altogether removed. The conviction, that our functional examination, though still having many gaps, can be of service to the practitioner in many respects, even in its present form, and the encouraging approbation of colleagues, have been to me the cause for this comprehensive presentation. At the same time it affords me a desired opportunity for the publication of some recently obtained results.

ADOLF SCHMIDT.

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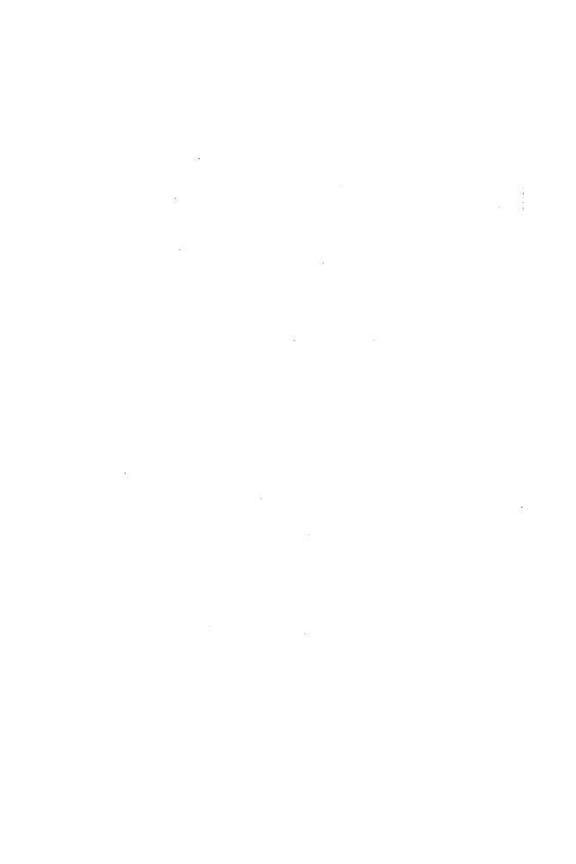


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Functional Diagnosis of the Stomach and of the Intestine.—Experiments in Digestion.—Conditions of a Rational Test of the Function of the Intestine.—The Examination of the Content of the Stomach as Indicator.

To any one who compares the present state of intestinal pathology with that of the pathology of the stomach, there can be no doubt, that in spite of the various advances we have made, especially in the field of local inflammations (appendicitis) of stricture and of obstruction of the intestine, the former has nevertheless remained very far be-This is especially true for those diffuse hind the latter. diseases of the intestine and its adnexa (the liver and the pancreas) which have no broadly recognizable symptoms. These will form the subject of our consideration primarily; in other words, the lighter grades of inflammation and the numerous other so-called functional diseases, for which it has hitherto proved impossible to find an anatomic substratum. In the pathology of the stomach it is in the knowledge of just these forms of diseases that extraordinary progress has been made in the last two decades, and this we owe to the use of the stomach-tube for the purposes of diagnosis (v. Leube) and to the introduction of the test-breakfast and the test-meal (Ewald, Riegel); in short, to the creation of a functional diagnosis of the diseases of the stomach.

The aim of functional diagnosis, which is now being striven for in all branches of internal medicine, is the rec-