

THE USE OF PSYCHOLOGY IN THE TREATMENT OF PEPTIC
DISORDERS HAVING NO DISCOVERABLE ORGANIC BASE

The medical literature of the present day is filled with speculations as to the part played by the mental processes in the cause etiology and relief of many of the more common disorders which only a few years ago were considered to be purely medical problems. Psychologists have done very little to foster a healthy growth in this direction and as a result the medical men have attempted to answer their own questions by the application of the procedures which they have found ready made for them. All too frequently about the only procedure that could be found was that which of psycho-analysis. To one who is interested in science it is pleasant to note that even the physicians are becoming mildly sceptical of the mythological concepts of psycho-analysis and are looking for explanations which, though less startling, may be more in line with the well observed facts of ~~pe~~ nature.

In no other field have psychologists been so backward as in that of remedial measures. In this connection thinking has rarely been employed and experimental methods almost never. The prevalent attitude toward the application of the data of psychology the problems of the medical practitioner is perhaps summed up by Professor Knight Dunlap when he remarks that psychology can be of no value when applied to organic conditions and there can be no question about this. When we examine into the evidence which supports the prevalent opinion we find that it rests upon the authority of our elders, one of whom intuited it. It has not the slightest experimental evidence to support it.

It was the purpose of the present group of experiments to