

The Role of Manganese.

While iron performs brilliant service in anæmia and chlorosis, it has been noticed to fail entirely, or almost so, in a certain number of cases. Something else than iron seemed to be lacking, and some other remedy seemed to be required. It was Hannon who succeeded in demonstrating, in 1849, the presence of manganese in the blood, and in the same year Petrequin showed that iron and manganese decrease to the same degree in the blood of chlorotic persons, and therefore must be replaced in an equal measure. In 1857 Menke called attention to the pharmacodynamic significance of manganese in the mineral waters of Pymont, while Prof. Rühle ascribed chlorosis to an impoverishment of the blood in manganese or iron, or both conjointly. The most recent researches have not only confirmed these statements, but have demonstrated that manganese acts more powerfully upon the oxygen of the blood than iron, and hence promotes assimilation more energetically than the latter. That notwithstanding these facts and experiments, the use of manganese has not become more general, is attributable to the fact that prior to the advent of Pepto-Mangan, it was not found possible to combine both these hematogenic elements in a palatable, soluble and absorbable form.