

SCIENCE

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EXPERIMENTAL AND CHEMICAL STUDIES OF THE BLOOD WITH AN APPEAL FOR MORE EXTENDED CHEMICAL TRAINING FOR THE BIOLOGICAL AND MEDICAL INVESTIGATOR. II

THE BLOOD AND THE SPECIFIC SECRETORY PRODUCTS OF THE ORGANS OF INTERNAL SECRETION

In this field we touch on the one hand upon knowledge which is deeply rooted in the earliest practical experience of mankind, and on the other on the results of epoch-making clinical observations and of experimentation in scientific laboratories up to the present moment. Man has long made practical use of the fact that the removal of the sex glands at a certain age will give us the docile ox in place of the unruly bull, the easily fattened and tender-fleshed capon for the muscular and stringy cock; and human society in its various stages of development has also practised this mutilation on its individuals for various reasons, religious, economic or penal. The sale of eunuchs in Bagirmi and other parts of North Central Africa still continues, we are told, and it was only on the accession of Pope Leo XIII. in 1878 that the practise of castrating boys in order to furnish the Sistine Choir its famous adult soprano voices was discontinued.

From remote antiquity, therefore, man has known that the gonads, or sex glands, exert a marked influence on the development and structure of the body, but until recent times there has existed no valid explanation, no correct theory of their relationship to the rest of the body. It is true, there were not wanting acute minds whose attempted explanation came close to the