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The features marked with a star (*) are based entirely on material taken straight from standard research (and other Official and Therefore Always Correct) literature. Many of the other articles are genuine, too, but we don't know which ones.



Special Section: Digestion or Indigestion*

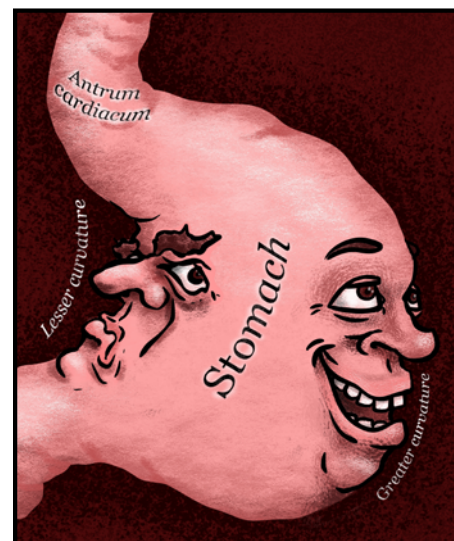
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Artist S. Glikzman's attempt to depict the Janus-faced nature of the human digestive system.

Where There's More

There's always new improbable — it's not what you expect! — stuff on the **Improbable Research blog** at IMPROBABLE.COM



Some Coming Events

(See IMPROBABLE.COM for details of these and other events.)

September 18, 2025

— The 35th First Annual
Ig Nobel Prize Ceremony

September 20, 2025

— Ig Nobel Face-to-Face

November 7-9, 2025

— Falling Walls,
Berlin, Germany

November 12, 2025

— Monell Center,
Philadelphia, USA

DIGESTION: SUBTLE PREPARATIONS

Removing things that might lead to crazy outcomes

compiled by Naomi Tangent, Improbable Research staff

Cure Insanity by Removing Teeth and Maybe Also Some Colon

"The Etiology and Treatment of the So-Called Functional Psychoses. Summary of Results Based Upon the Experience of Four Years," Henry A. Cotton, *American Journal of Psychiatry*, vol. 79, no. 2, 1922, pp. 157-210. The author reports:

Without exception the functional psychotic patients all have infected teeth....

The removal of all infected teeth is imperative. This means the impacted and unerupted molars as well, especially in young people. From our experience, we consider that all impacted and unerupted teeth are infected. It is useless to quibble over this point....

If, after the treatment, as outlined above, the patient still shows no signs of improvement or recovery, thorough examination of the lower intestinal tract is made. When the diagnosis is established, exploratory laparotomy is performed, and, if necessary, the colon is resected....

The successful treatment of 1400 cases during the last four years with only 42 return cases now in the hospital must be accepted as evidence that our work has been efficient....

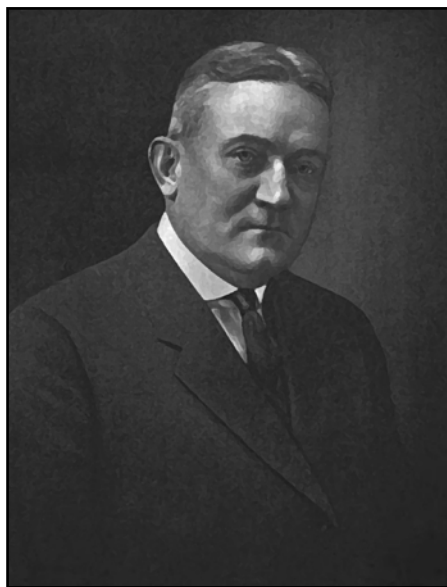
The inadequate unsuccessful attempt of Drs. Cheney and Kopeloff corresponds exactly with our own experience. When we started this work in 1916, in the first 50 cases in which the teeth were extracted no results were noticed. They are undoubtedly going through this period of inadequate treatment. I sincerely hope they will continue the work and follow our technic and not be discouraged by the results in 25 cases.

THE ETIOLOGY AND TREATMENT OF THE SO-CALLED FUNCTIONAL PSYCHOSES. SUMMARY OF RESULTS BASED UPON THE EXPERIENCE OF FOUR YEARS.*

By HENRY A. COTTON, M.D.

A period of three years has elapsed since the writer read a paper before this Society in 1919 upon the relation of focal infection to mental disorders. As anticipated, a great deal of skepticism was aroused and very few of the members were willing to accept the rather radical views expressed by the writer, in spite of the fact that those views were based upon over three years of intensive investigation with the newer methods of laboratory diagnosis. One is justified in rejecting new ideas, especially in the domain of mental disorders, unless sufficient proof is produced to substantiate those ideas.

During the last three years we have continued our investigations and have, we think, shown conclusively by the results obtained that our theories have stood the test of time. We have now been successfully treating our patients by the methods of detoxication or elimination of focal infection, for over four years, and nothing has occurred in our experience to cause us to modify any of our original ideas. And, what is more important, no one has disproved our theories upon this important subject. While there has been a tendency to ignore the work, we have been gratified by the fact that quite a few institutions have had sufficient faith in our methods to adopt them and from all reports with at



*Henry A. Cotton,
author of the study.
Drawing by Nan Swift.*