Inoculating the Plate.

Whether a large or small loop of infected material is taken for inoculating the plate depends on the number of bacteria present, as shown by the direct examination. Hold the now dried plate in one hand, keeping the surface of the medium at an angle so as to minimise the danger of air-borne infection and with the other hand charge the platinum loop with the material for culture. Gently stroke the surface of the medium, taking care to avoid breaking it; do not recharge the loop when apparently all the material has been deposited, but continue stroking until the whole of the surface of the plate has been covered. The best method is to divide the plate into three divisions—stroking each section in turn, that is to say, with the freshly charged loop start at the edge of the plate and cover the whole of the surface in that section by a series of parallel strokes, working towards the centre, then go to the next section, and then the last. The medium may be broken at the edge to show which section was done first, then if a growth is obtained—in the last and not the first section the presence of a contamination might reasonably be expected. The plate is incubated overnight and examined next morning, smears being made from each type of colony present.

Culture Medium.

Agar broth, more frequently called nutrient agar, is the usual medium employed for routine work. It may, if the presence of certain bacteria are suspected, have the addition of a thin film of blood. Nutrient broth is used for the fluid cultures. Insipissated serum is used for the cultivation of the diphtheria bacillus, Dorset’s egg medium for the tubercle bacillus, but this last is very difficult and is certainly best left for the fully equipped laboratory. Urines and other fluids require some means of concentrating the solid matter present; this is done by means of a machine called a centrifuge, which may be worked by hand or motor driven.

For the cultivation and differentiation of bacillus coli and bacteria of the dysentery and typhoid group, a special medium is required, and again this is perhaps best left to the large hospital laboratory.

SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.

“Eleven Stages of Man Expressed in Menu Style.”

1. Milk.
2. Milk and bread.
3. Milk, eggs, bread, and spinach.
4. Oatmeal, bread and butter, green apples, and “all day suckers.”
5. Ice cream soda and hot dog.
6. Minute steak, fried potatoes, coffee and apple pie.
7. Bouillon, roast duck, scalloped potatoes, creamed broccoli, fruit salad, divinity fudge, and demi-tasse.
9. Two soft-boiled eggs, toast and milk.
10. Crackers and milk.
11. Milk.

(Quoted from The Echo-Ette, School of Nursing, Jewish Hospital, Brooklyn, N.Y., by the American Nurses’ Association Bulletin.)