

THE AUTOLYTIC POWER OF *BACILLUS COLI COMMUNIS*.—BY PROF.
E. G. YOUNG, Ph. D., Department of Biochemistry, Dal-
housie University, Halifax, N. S.

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Highly concentrated emulsions of *B. coli communis* were prepared in saline from growths on nutrient agar. They were then frozen and thawed repeatedly, using a freezing mixture of solid carbon dioxide and ether, until the medium was sterile or nearly so. The resulting medium was passed through a Berkefeld filter, then added to a solution containing glucose, peptone and appropriate salt mixture. This medium was placed in a thermostat at 37° C. for several weeks in the presence of nitrogen gas and analysed at frequent intervals. This technique reveals that *B. coli communis* has no autolytic power to decompose glucose. Hydrolysis of peptone proceeds very slowly at pH 6 to 8 as shown by an increase in the number of free amino groupings