

## MATERIA MEDICA AND THERAPEUTICS.

*On Hydrobromic Acid.*

Mr. T. F. ABRAHAM (*Pharmaceutical Journal*, Oct. 20) says: Hydrobromic acid, or rather the impure solution thereof as produced by the process described by Dr. Fothergill, seems to have firmly established itself as an useful agent in combination with quinine. It is found that, in many cases, when the use of quinine causes headache or other disagreeable symptoms, the addition of fifteen-minim or twenty-minim doses of hydrobromic acid entirely removes the difficulty. Whether its administration as an independent remedy will be found desirable, I think still remains to be seen.

It must be, however, a matter of regret that the name should have come in pharmacy to be applied to an impure and somewhat indefinite product. It is to be hoped that in our next appendix to the *Pharmacopœia* a form will be introduced that, while keeping pretty closely to the strength of Fothergill's acid, which I think has been found convenient, will furnish a fairly pure and definite product.—*London Med. Record*, Nov. 15, 1877.

*On Phosphate of Lime.*

In an article in the *Bulletin de Thérapeutique*, t. xc., MM. PAQUELIN and JOLLY arrive at the following conclusions: 1. Phosphate of lime is absorbed only in very small proportion. 2. The organism in general consumes very little of it. 3. The circulation carries only insignificant quantities of the phosphate; with the exception of the bones, our tissues contain, so to speak, only traces. 4. Lime enters the organism in two states; in small quantity, in the form of bisulphate, and in considerable proportion, in the form of salts that are not phosphates. A part of the non-phosphorized lime-salts pre-exists in the food (carbonate of lime); the other part is one of the products of the decomposition of the sulphate of lime in the food by the acids of digestion (chloride of calcium, lactate of lime, etc.). 5. The organism makes its phosphate of lime by a double exchange, and finds in the food all the elements necessary for increasing the production of this substance, according to its needs. 6. The greater part of the phosphate of lime in the urine is found in the bladder; and the whole of the salt in the urine is therefore not a direct product of disassimilation. 7. Of the two elements, phosphoric acid and lime, which enter into the composition of phosphate of lime, the phosphoric acid is absorbed in certain proportions in the form of alkaline phosphate, while the lime is directly thrown out by the intestines. 8. The addition of phosphate of lime to food is an obstacle to nutrition. 9. The soluble preparations of phosphate of lime act primarily as acids, and then, in consequence of the changes which they undergo in the intestine, they act, secondarily, in a certain measure, as phosphates having another base.—*London Med. Record*, Nov. 15, 1877.

*Transformation of Salicylic Acid.*

M. BYASSON has sought to determine what are the transformations which salicylic acid undergoes after being swallowed by man. Numerous experiments have led him to the following conclusions: Salicylic acid, swallowed by man in a state of salicylate of soda, appears in the urine, and may be detected twenty-five minutes after its demonstration by its reaction with perchloride of iron; a dose of forty grains is eliminated in from about twenty-six to forty hours. 2. In its passage through the body, a portion of the salicylate is eliminated unchanged, another