

[In the epidemic cholera some instances occurred in which phosphorus was employed with occasional success. These instances I cannot at present refer to in the Journals where they were published; but I remember perfectly to have seen such in several German periodicals, and one or two in our English Journals. Thus in the 10th Volume of the Medical Gazette, Mr. Barry states, that in one case of Asiatic cholera, he had practical evidence of the good result from a careful use of phosphorus. In the space of four hours he gave one grain of the medicine in divided doses of a quarter of a grain each. He does not, however, state that his patient recovered. He further on adds that, as its action is principally exerted on the urinary organs, and in renewing in an extraordinary degree impaired nervous power, it would be well that it should have a regulated and steady trial. The method of preparing it by Mr. Barry is, to shake a piece of phosphorus in a phial of warm water, by which it is, like oil, separated into minute globules, which, on the addition of cold water, become solid: these globules are then to be reduced to powder with white sugar. Treacle will be a convenient vehicle for its exhibition. The withdrawal from air and light recommended by M. Magendie, is, however, absolutely necessary, in whatever form it may be kept or administered.—*Tr.*]

BI-CARBONATES OF SODA AND POTASS.

There is no doubt that the gastric fluid poured from the surface of the stomach during digestion, is of an acid nature. The experiments of Prout, Childers, Prevost and Leroyer, Tiedemann and Gmelin, go to prove that this acidity is owing to the presence of hydrochloric acid. Moreover, Prevost and Leroyer, Tiedemann and Gmelin, Leuret and Lassaigne ascertained that the presence of soda in the other fluids, that as-

sist in digestion, saturated the free acid, and that this saturation was essential to the complete solution of the food. M. Darcet, (*Sur la préparation et l'usage des pastilles digestives contenant du bi-carbonate de soude. Ann. de Chim. et de Phys. 1828,*) showed by experiments on himself, that the bi-carbonate of soda in small doses, rendered digestion more easy; and in another memoir he showed that the beneficial properties possessed by the waters of Vichy in promoting the flow of urine and other secretions, in difficult digestion, chronic affections of the stomach, calculous disorders, &c. were owing to the bi-carbonate of soda, of which it contains more than of other salts. For the same purposes soda in an effervescing state, or soda water, is advantageously employed. Mascagni is said to have long ago recommended the bi-carbonate of potass in the treatment of calculous affections; and Dr. Farnesi endeavoured to call attention to the fact, in a paper read to the Lombardo-Venetian Institute in 1813. Previous to M. Darcet's Memoir, however, these alkaline salts were but little employed.

Mode of preparing Alkaline Lozenges.

Place powdered bi-carbonate of soda and sugar in a well-dried bottle: shake the bottle in order to mix them thoroughly; then take a portion of the powder and mix it well on a marble slab with mucilage of gum tragacanth and oil of mint; the mass thus obtained is to be divided into lozenges, which, when dried on a stone or in the open air, should each weigh about one gramme.

Darcet's Formula.

Dry and finely powdered bi-carbonate of soda ..	5 grammes.
Finely powdered white sugar	95 „
Mucilage of gum tragacanth prepared with water..	q. s.
Essential oil of mint	2 or 3 drops.

As these lozenges attract slightly the moisture of

the atmosphere they should be kept in a well-stopped bottle, or in a very dry locality. Any other essential oil may be used in place of the mint: balsam of Tolu is well adapted for this purpose.

Medicinal Use of Alkaline Lozenges.

Each lozenge weighing a gramme, contains about a grain and a half of the bi-carbonate. M. Darcet, speaking from his own experience, says that three of them are sufficient to amend a peccant digestion, and that for that purpose they are more efficacious than the waters of Vichy. He regards the action of the soda as purely chemical, the latter saturating the excess of acid in the primæ viæ. The lozenges should be taken immediately on finding the stomach disordered; if taken before a meal the digestion will be considerably facilitated. For this last reason they should be given to gouty and calculous subjects before their meals. But in cases of gravel and even of gout with chalk-stones, together with the lozenges, alkaline, gaseous waters, as of Vichy and others, should be recommended. Such waters may be replaced by half a gros to two gros of bi-carbonate of soda; at the same time a vegetable diet containing no azotized food should be enjoined.

DIGITALINE.

M. Auguste Leroyer, of Geneva, has communicated some observations on the active principle of the *digitalis purpurea*, which he succeeded in isolating, and with which he made several experiments on animals. I shall announce the results of M. Leroyer's researches, in order that other experiments may be made to ascertain whether it is possible to extract from the fox-glove an active principle that shall be unvaried in character—a consummation of some importance in medicine.