

the economy, in proportion as Cod Liver Oil is gradually decomposed in the blood.

"BOUCHARDAT,

*Professor of Hygien, at the Academy of Medicine, Paris.*

"[Manuel de Matière Medicale, pag. 749—1856.

The action of Cod Liver Oil on the system is a double one; it is nourishing by its fatty elements, and curative by its medicinal bodies—Iodine, Bromine and Phosphorus, which it naturally contains; and to these three substances must be attributed its superiority over other fats or oils, either animal or vegetable, in the cure of diseases. These facts, discovered and proven by physiologists in their experiments on animals, and confirmed by the experience of physicians in their daily practice, have been corroborated during the last eight years, in a most illustrative manner, by the administration, to a large number of patients, of a Cod Liver Oil five times richer in Iodine, Bromine and Phosphorus than any of the Cod Liver Oils known before.

Cod Liver Oil, as well as other fatty substances, when taken in too large quantities, is apt to disturb the stomach, and derange the functions of the intestinal canal. Only a small quantity can be digested and assimilated, the rest passing off unchanged, producing more or less frequent and abundant alvine evacuations, in which are contained the superfluous oils or fats. Observations prove that the gastric juice has no action whatever on fats or oils, the pancreatic juice being the only body which, by its emulsive properties, causes the absorption of these substances into the economy; and, therefore, all the oil not emulsified by the pancreatic juice is evacuated by the intestines just as it was taken. The knowledge of this important fact is due to the recent observations of Claude Bernard, a well known authority in physiology. The oil, once emulsified by the action of the pancreatic juice, is brought into the general current of the circulation as follows: It is first taken up by the chyliferous vessels on the surface of the small intestines, and passing through the mesenteric glands and the thoracic duct, it is discharged into the left subclavian vein, where it mixes with the venous blood returning to the right cavities of the heart. This blood, and the fresh nutritious elements, furnished by the two subclavian veins, are pressed into the lungs to be there oxidized and altered; while passing through the pulmonary circulation, the oily molecules are modified, and almost all of them destroyed. The blood, then, ready anew for nutrition, passes into the left ventricle, to be thence distributed through the arterial system, carrying along with it some oily globules left undecomposed during their speedy passage through the lungs, said oily globules being afterward successively altered in the circulating blood.