

collection and preparation of their medicines, they have established and maintain a high standard for purity, which we could do well to profit by. Such a thing as an adulterated or low grade of any homœopathic medicine has never been heard of. Their pleasant taste, low price, and neat appearance have done much to make them popular with the people, and the handsome profit they pay has had a similar effect on the druggist.

In conclusion, the following extract from the introduction to the *Pharmacopœia* referred to will be of interest :

"But if it is asked whether the physician, occupied with his professional practice, and often limited pharmaceutical knowledge, should prefer to prepare his own remedies, or obtain them ready for use, prepared with scrupulous accuracy, there could be but one answer. In short, in the course of time, it has been found impossible to dispense with the assistance of professional pharmacutists."

I would further add, that whatever we may think of homœopathic pharmacy, there is one advantage we must all admit: that should a mistake occur in dispensing, there is no danger of it proving fatal, or of the physician, chemist, or any one else, even finding it out.

ON THE USE OF PHOSPHORUS IN MEDICINE.*

BY HUSKISSON ADRIAN, F.C.S.

First Paper.

The four preparations of phosphorus included in the *Pharmacopœia* Appendix imply the admission by the Medical Council of the fact that the element appears in medicine under two distinct aspects. In the first place we have in the *Pharmacopœia* itself the compounds of phosphoric acid, which may be said, speaking generally, to furnish the phosphatic matter required for the nourishment of the bones and blood; and now the Appendix authorises the use of two salts and two mixtures of phosphorus, all capable of further oxidation, and acting powerfully upon the nervous system. How they act cannot at present be laid down; but probably the progress of animal chemistry will hereafter supply the links now wanting to connect the phosphorus taken as medicine with the protagon of the brain, and then with the phosphates which are finally thrown off by the body.

Meanwhile, a comparison of the amount of phosphorus contained in the official doses of both old and new preparations seems

* From the Chemist & Druggist.