

WHY I USE PEPTO-MANGAN "GUDE."—AN EXPERIMENTAL DEMONSTRATION.*

BY WM. KRAUSS, Ph.G., M.D., MEMPHIS.

Director of the Microscopic Laboratories, Memphis Medical College; Pathologist and Visiting Physician to St. Joseph's Hospital, etc.

Some five years ago I wrote a paper for the *Memphis Medical Monthly*, giving a résumé of the evolution of the iron compounds, and appended a report of cases giving blood counts, etc. The manufacturers of the preparation I preferred saw fit to reproduce the case reports in their pamphlets, but said nothing about the reasons that induced me to prefer their product.

At a recent joint meeting of physicians and pharmacists I was criticised for opposing the use of ready-made compounds, while still advocating the use of Pepto-Mangan "Gude," which is a proprietary preparation. I hesitated considerably about bringing the matter up again, because I dislike to build up a reputation as an endorser, and have never in any other instance written an article endorsing a proprietary preparation.

I hope, however, to show you this evening that there is no pharmacopeial preparation that meets the requirements of an ideal iron compound, and, until this is found, I intend to continue to use what has never disappointed me, and is not based upon mere faith. The work of Bunge is too well known to be now quoted, and I will only make a few experiments before you this evening and show the reasons for the faith that is in me. There may be other proprietary iron compounds, and doubtless there are, that will come up to the same requirements, but I see no advantage in swapping the devil for the witch.

It is not necessary to repeat all the tests with all the official iron preparations, because they are divisible into groups, all the salts of one group behaving very much alike toward the gastric and intestinal juices.

An ingenious theory recently put forward regarding the action of the mineral salts of iron is, that they decompose the substances in the intestinal tract which precipitate the food iron so that it may be absorbed. This is the only rational explanation of the fact that we do occasionally get results from them. On the other hand, it is far more rational to use an iron compound that can be, and is absorbed, for then we are reckoning with known quantities, instead of blundering along, giving more iron at a dose than is contained in the

* Read before the Memphis Medical Society.