

the subject of theoretical reflections. I am decidedly of the opinion, however, that this attack is attributable to an influence of Pepto-Mangan "Gude" upon the spleen.

In all particulars Gude's Pepto-Mangan is an excellent preparation, which bids fair to occupy a permanent place in the materia medica. I would be pleased if through this article I had directed attention to this valuable remedy, and incited others to undertake experiments and report their observations.—*Aerztlicher Central Anzeiger*, Vienna, Austria, Sept. 20th, 1899.

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### LECITHINE.

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Lecithine (*λέιθος*, derived from the Greek word meaning yolk of egg) found in semen, brain matter, nerve tissue, the leucocytes of the blood, the yolk of egg, and many other sources, was first discovered by Gobley and studied later by Strecker. Its therapeutical value as an assimilable form of organic phosphorus, has been acknowledged by a number of authorities who have given this subject attention. Chemically, lecithine is found to be made up of certain *acid glyccro-phosphates*, and it is unnecessary to add that the phosphorous of the human organism exists as glyccro-phosphates.

The first important studies connected with the role of lecithine in nutrition are due to Danilewski. In 1897, the "Societe de Biologie de Paris" received on this subject an extremely interesting communication from Charrin. Selensky (a pupil of Danilewski), has been able to show that its action on the red corpuscles is remarkably beneficial. Numerous authorities have since studied the physiological effects of lecithine, and all agree that it assists nutrition, favors assimilation of nitrogen and phosphorus compounds, so essential to the economy. The conclusions of Desgrez and Ali Zaky recently published by the "Societe de Biologie" are on the same lines, so also are those of Gilbert and Fournier, who treated a number of phthisical and neurasthenic patients with results showing improvement in appetite, weight, strength, and general health.

Lancreaux, Gilbert and Fournier (*Bull. de l'Acad. de Med. de Paris*) have used lecithine in the various stages of *epuise-ment* occurring in diabetics, with the happiest results, particularly in the more advanced stages, with a daily depreciation of the patient's weight and vitality.

We are therefore justified in concluding that lecithine is worthy of trial as a means of checking the drain on the vital