

"Nor is the action of highly carbonated waters," says Dr. Prout, "confined to their mere solvent effects; they undoubtedly possess disintegrating power; that is, the power of disturbing the attraction, both cohesive and adhesive, by which the molecules of the calculi are held together, so as to render them brittle and easily broken into fragments." This is an additional reason for using decomponents before recourse is had to lithotripsy.

Besides the kind of cases already adduced, there is one variety for which decomponents seem to be peculiarly adapted: viz., concretions in the prostate gland. No instrument hitherto devised has been successful in dislodging them. The first case, however, mentioned in the present paper, goes to prove that a considerable quantity of calcareous matter was removed from the prostatic portion of the urethra, by the use of the lead injection.

In the first experiment communicated to the Royal Society, it was stated, that one hundred grains of calculus immersed in lead solution for forty minutes, had lost twelve grains. In the second experiment, the quantity dissolved, from a fragment weighing thirty-seven grains, was, after half an hour's immersion, eight grains. Subsequent experience has verified the observations, and proves that, under favourable circumstances, decomposition takes place in definite proportions; so that, from the precipitate of phosphate of lead, the quantity of ammonio-magnesian phosphate which has been decomposed may be securely estimated.

Since these circumstances obtain out of the bladder, by means of a fluid which can be borne by that organ with impunity, we may reasonably hope, that the mere transference of the scene of action, from the exterior to the interior, will not materially affect the results.—*London Journal of Medicine*, October, 1851.

OIL OF PITCH IN THE ECZEMA.

The French medical periodicals have of late spoken very highly of the efficacy of the oil of pitch (*huile de Cade*) in the treatment of eczema. Indeed, M. Devergie, physician to the "Hôpital St. Louis;" where diseases of the skin are especially treated, advocated the oil several years ago, and has lately taken an opportunity of stating that this "*huile du Cade*" should be preferred to the empyreumatic oil obtained in the production of coal gas, which has been highly eulogized by M. Lafond Gouzi. Dr. Neligan, in his work on *Materia Medica*, states that the "*huile du Cade*" has been used on the continent in obstinate cases of herpes, lichen, and eczema, but observes that the term "*huile du Cade*" (*oleum cadinum*) has been restricted by some French pharmacologists to a tarry oil obtained by the dry distillation of the wood of the *Juniperus oxycedrus*.

THE ITCH CURED IN TWO HOURS.

Dr. Bazin, physician of the Hôpital Saint Louis of Paris, introduced not long ago a notable improvement in the treatment of the itch, since he succeeded in curing the disease in *two days* by general frictions with the sulphur ointment. Dr. Hardy, who has succeeded Dr. Bazin in the Scabies wards of the same hospital, has, however, considerably curtailed this already short time; he cures his patients in *two hours*. The method is described as follows:—Patients are no