

sing more or less digestive power, an appearance varying from that of decorated liquorice to pulv. doveri, and an odor of almost nil to the strong smell of bacon. Variable as it might be, it has stood the test of time, and at last asserted its right to recognition and admission to at least the outer circle, viz: to the Appendix of the British Pharmacopœia.

For some time past I have been conducting a series of experiments on pepsin, first with the view of ascertaining the quality of commercial specimens by different makers; and secondly, of testing the various processes which have been proposed for its preparation as a medicinal or restorative agent. My results under the first head somewhat surprised me, and might do others who have not made this subject one of experimental inquiry; one or two examples will perhaps serve as illustrations. It will be seen that I have used a minimum quantity of acid, so as to test the full peptic power of the various samples—the amount of acid often recommended in a given quantity of fluid being much larger than can possibly exist in the human stomach. In each instance, the white portion of hard-boiled eggs chopped in small pieces was used, and after digestion the undissolved portions, before weighing, were brought to as nearly as possible the same condition of dryness as they were in previously; 100 grains were introduced into six vials—to five of these ten drachms of distilled water, ten minims dilute hydrochloric acid, and ten grains of pepsin of various kinds were added; in the sixth, four drachms of the distilled water were replaced by the same quantity of pepsin wine, each drachm of which should have represented two-and-a-half grains of Pepsina Porci; all were digested under precisely the same conditions at a temperature of 100° for 12 hours. The following gives the amount by weight of undissolved albumen in each vial:—

No. 1	left undissolved,	1½ gr.
“ 2	“	2½ “
“ 3	“	24 “
“ 4	“	28 “
“ 5	“	41 “
“ 6	“	56 “

Now, the medical man who is desirous of testing the value of pepsin as a remedial agent, in one or more cases where he considers it ought to be of service, if there is any good in it, will be perfectly satisfied of its efficacy should Nos. 1 or 2 be dispensed, more or less so if No. 3; but what if No. 5? or if he should have prescribed pepsin wine, as No. 6? It might be said that this latter is largely prescribed, and also taken by invalids without prescription, frequently with good results. I can only reply that, according to the above statement, it possesses about one-half the peptic power that it should do, and that as the stomach is a laboratory whose operations are