

to get the patient to take it in sufficient quantity, or from failure to secure its entrance into the circulation by the absorbents, or from bringing about other symptoms that add to the discomfort and danger impending, as irritability of the bowels, diarrhœa or its opposite, or from its astringent effect on the mucous lining of the alimentary tract, interfering with the proper digestion and assimilation of the limited food supply that is tolerated by the patient.

More than half a century ago M. Burin-Duboisson demonstrated by chemical analysis the recognized fact that the red corpuscles of the blood contain about one-twentieth as much manganese as iron. Nature never doing anything uselessly or unnecessarily, we can but recognize it as one of the essential constituents of the blood; and when its preparation is lessened by hæmorrhages and other conditions that impair the blood, its restoration through natural channels is but slow and uncertain, so that it is quite a natural suggestion to take steps to secure its re-establishment in proper proportion. Soon after its demonstration as existing in the blood, M. Hannon and others used it with satisfactory success in chlorosis, syphilis, scrofula, and other similar conditions. Kugler, in 1838, noticing that individuals employed in bleaching establishments where chlorine was largely used, and in those who handle large quantities of the salts or oxides of manganese, were free from diseases of the skin, bones, and glands, made a successful trial of it in scrofula. The various salts or oxides of manganese used from time to time being deficient in stability or difficult of assimilation, its use has not been altogether satisfactory until quite recently.

A little over a year ago I received from Messrs. M. J. Breitenbach Co., of New York, a preparation new to me, bearing the name of "Pepto-Mangan, Gude," prepared by Dr. Gude, Chemist, of Leipsic, Germany. The *claim being made* that it was a *combination of iron and manganese* as true peptonates, having decided advantages over the preparations of iron, even the albuminate, in both permanency and ease of assimilation. It is clear, of a rich sherry-wine color, neutral in reaction, free from astringency, and of a pleasant aromatic taste. It is also claimed for this preparation that "it is a powerful blood-forming agent; a genuine hæmoglobinogenetic; feeding the red corpuscles with organic iron and manganese, which are quickly and completely absorbed in cases of anæmia from any cause, such as chlorosis, amenorrhœa, dysmenorrhœa, chorea, Bright's disease, etc."

Dr. H. H. Loomis, of New York, in a paper read before the Section of General Medicine of the New York Academy of Medicine, speaks of it most favorably and reports a series of eight cases (Bellevue Hospital) in which anæmia had resulted from various causes and the number of red corpuscles had been markedly reduced from more than twenty-five to near fifty per cent, as demonstrated by careful count by proper laboratory apparatus, and that under