

MEDICAL NEWS.

PREPARATION OF NITRITE OF POTASSIUM.—M. Erdmann gives the following process for the preparation of nitrite of potassium. He recommends the fusion of the nitrate of potash with several times its weight of iron filings or borings in a cast-iron crucible at a carefully regulated red-heat. When a small portion taken from the crucible and tested shows a strong evolution of nitrous acid, the mass is poured from the crucible. When cold the mass is dissolved, and then the undecomposed nitrate is removed by crystallization; the liquid is then supersaturated with nitrous acid, and afterwards evaporated to dryness. The following process, which was published in the *Chemical News*,* the reader will no doubt see that the nitrite of potassium will be applicable to the purpose for which nitrite of sodium is used in the British Pharmacopœia—viz., sp. ether nitrosi. Nitrite of potassium is, we believe, more easily purified than the sodium salt.

NEW TEST FOR GLUCOSE IN DIABETIC URINE.—MM. Francqui and Vyvere prepare a test solution as follows:—Nitrate of bismuth is precipitated by a considerable excess of potash, and the mixture is moderately heated and tartaric acid added, until the precipitate at first formed is dissolved. The reagent is then ready. A few drops of this test boiled with diabetic urine gives a black deposit of metallic bismuth.—*Chemical News*.

* Taken from a paper on the nitrous compounds of cobalt and nickel.—*Jour. fur. Prakt. Chem.*, No. 7, 1866, p. 387.
