

the symbol C, H, O, such as sugar, starch, &c. The chyle contains the fat which is absorbed from the food. The reaction of chyle is alkaline, and therefore the neutral fats of the body are wholly or in great part saponified, either before they enter the blood or shortly afterwards with the exception of those fats that are not capable of being converted into a soap. No neutral fats have been found in the blood as long as it remains in a healthy condition. It contains, however, compounds of fatty acids with bases soluble in water and in the materials which serve for the production of fatty tissue. The fatty substances that are in chemical combination, existing in the brain, the liver and the kidneys, are intimately combined with albumen so as to form an emulsion with water similar to crushed almonds.

In prescribing fats or oils such as butter, cod-liver, or any other oil, the action is very different.

M Pelonze has proved that animal oils are subject at a certain elevated temperature, to a fermentation producing rancidity, "that is to say that under the influence of the azotized principles associated with all fats, the fatty matters split into their respective fatty acids and glycerine, which in their turn, undergo a further change resulting in the production of volatile fatty acids, such as of butter into butyric acid.

This is easily shown by combining purely fresh butter with bi-carbonate of soda, placing the mixture at the temperature of the blood, when in a few hours effervescence will be produced showing the escape of carbonic acid. Hence the only proper medicinal effect of cod-liver oil, butter, or any of the fats, is obtained by giving them in combination with some of the alkaline salts; the former with Hydrochlorate of Ammonia and alcohol. Butter makes an easy mixture with yolk of egg, soda bi-carb., syrup and distilled water. In these cases the alkaline action is effected on the mucous surface with which it first comes in contact, which as we have seen, is inclined to excess of acidulous action, and the oil or fat produces its effect after the fermentation commences, and this assists in the decomposition or decay of the tuberculous deposit, making it subject to the action of other medicines through the absorbents. Usual form of prescribing:—