

statements: "In the absence of proof as to the value of the drug, we are not justified in using it merely because it may do good. It is doubtful if there are any conditions when the body suffers from lack of phosphorus. A half glass of milk contains more available phosphorus than three large doses of hypophosphites of fifteen grains each. There is no reliable evidence that the hypophosphites have any physiological effect. It has not been demonstrated that they influence any physiological process. They are not 'foods'. If they have any use, that use has never been discovered."

Fellow's Syrup of Hypophosphites has been among the most popular preparations. No very exact information about its composition can be obtained from the manufacturers beyond the fact that it contains 1/64 grain of strychnine to each drachm along with the hypophosphites of iron, quinine, calcium, manganese and potash. This uncertainty as to its composition puts it in the class of nostrums; and secrecy in medicine impedes rather than advances the progress of medical science. The extravagant claims made by its manufacturer remind one of a patent medicine testimonial. For example, they make this statement: "the fact has never been challenged that in Fellow's Syrup of Hypophosphites we have one of the most efficient, most complete, most all-round tonics and roborants in the materia medica."

Since the action of hypophosphites alone is under discussion, no reference has been made as to the effects of strychnine, quinine, iron, calcium, manganese and potassium. It is impossible to exactly determine their effects because one is dealing with a number of different factors in a mixture of so many drugs. The ordinary preparation of hypophosphites may be a convenient form in which to administer the inorganic radicals, *e.g.* iron, manganese, etc., or the alkaloids, *e.g.* quinine and strychnine. This is the only justification for the use of any of the preparations of hypophosphites.

The following testimonial¹² of a physician has a very obvious moral: "Just about six years ago I had a severe attack of La Grippe which almost killed me. Left me with asthma (Catarrh) and a severe cough. Did not get out of the house for three months. Took over a dozen bottles of McArthur's Hypophosphites, came out all right and have since then worked hard. Last fall took another cold but worked on, used McArthur's Hypophosphites, am using it now and am on my twelfth bottle. I have five or six patients whom I have put on McArthur's Hypophosphites but I do not prescribe the single bottle but wholesale, no less than six bottles. One patient is on his twenty-fourth bottle with orders to get another half-dozen and keep it up all winter. I have given