

NOTE ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF PHOSPHORUS.*

BY DR. E. R. SQUIBB.

NOTE BY THE EDITOR.—The first portion of this paper, which, for want of space, we are compelled to omit, is more particularly devoted to a discussion of the therapeutical effects of phosphorus, and of the eligibility of various vehicles for its administration. On the first of these subjects there is given much information of value to the physician, and for those who wish to read up the literature of phosphorus more thoroughly, a list of authorities is given. Amongst these may be named Wagner, of Berlin, (*Archives* for 1872, vol. LV. p. 11.) J. Ashburton Thompson, of London, ("*Free Phosphorus*," published by H. K. Lewis, 136 Gower St., W. C.) and Lemaire (*Bulletin General de Therapeutique*, Sept. 1875.) The objections to the various vehicles which have been proposed for the solution or suspension of phosphorus are stated in great detail by the author and a decided preference is shown for cod liver oil. In regard to this Dr. Squibb says: "From all that has been written upon the subject it seems to be pretty well established that *phosphorus* should only be given in solution, and that the solvent used should be bland and not volatile, and should be capable of protecting the substance from the oxidation for a reasonable length of time when protected from light and air. Such a solvent has been found in cod-liver oil, and the testimony in regard to this solution in cod-liver oil, up to this time, so favourable as to indicate that all other preparations should be abandoned. It is therefore the object of this note to show that a definite uniform solution of phosphorus in cod-liver oil may be easily made and easily managed, so as to give an opportunity to the physician and pharmacist to use it with great accuracy and safety by ordinary extemporaneous prescriptions, allowing the physician to change his dose, and mode of administration, as each case may require in its different conditions and stages. This should put medication by free phosphorus under the same conditions, for accurate observation, with other potent remedies, and would enable physicians sooner to determine its true position and more accurate value in the materia medica by bringing it within their entire control, and responsibility. It is so very difficult to prevent phosphorus from oxidation when in contact with substances containing oxygen; and when in contact with substances which contain no oxygen, so difficult to prevent its combination with other elements, which impair, or destroy activity, that it is not easy to understand how it can ever reach the circulating fluids of the body, as free or uncombined phosphorus. Yet that it does so seems now pretty well established; and

*Read at the meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association, and furnished to our correspondent.