

## LACTO-PHOSPHATE OF LIME AS AN AID TO NUTRITION.

Dr. J. PELLETTAN, of Paris, has sent us a letter on the influence of phosphate of lime in nutrition, and on the best mode of administering it. He says:

"The increasing recognition of the influence attributed by recent researches to microzoa in the genesis and evolution of disease, has caused a revolution in therapeutics. Some have attempted to destroy the morbidic germs by administering substances which, to be efficacious, must be given in doses more likely to injure the patient than to cure the disease. Others, considering that animal and vegetable parasites thrive only on exhausted organisms, have sought to prevent the evil, or arrest its progress, by giving the patient greater power to resist the invasion of minute organisms. By acting on this principle, much success has been obtained in the treatment of phthisis and other acute and chronic diseases, by supplying to the patients abundance of pure air, light, and properly selected food.

These encouraging results have rapidly generalised the practice of "over-feeding" ("suralimentation"). This, however, does not always succeed to the extent hoped for; because the assimilative power of the patient is impaired, and resembles that of children and young animals, whose digestive power is incapable of utilising strong food. This inconvenience is overcome by the introduction, with the food, of a substance suitable for securing its digestion, and subsequently its assimilation.

This substance is phosphate of lime; the properties of which have been explained by M. Dusat in a paper on Mineral Inanition (*Archives Générales de Médecine*, 1869-70), and by many preceding and subsequent investigators. M. Dusat has shown, by physiological experiment, that phosphate of lime is capable of imparting to the proteid principles of food the property of becoming solid, and, under the influence of the vital force, of taking the form of cells, fibres, and other tissues. According to M. Dusat, the vitality and body-heat of animals are in proportion to the amount of phosphate of lime contained in their bodies. This substance is so indispensable to the formation of tissues that, when the food does not contain a sufficient quantity of it, the tissues take from the bony skeleton the calcareous salt which they require; just as, when the food is deficient in hydrocarbons, they take from the adipose tissue the materials necessary for the production of heat.

Not only must phosphate of lime be present in sufficient quantity in the food, but it must be easily assimilable, even by weakened patients. To such, the phosphate should be given in a form which will secure its absorption. Accordingly, M. Dusat has prepared, under the name of lacto-phosphate of lime, a substance which first facilitates the digestion of food in the stomach, and afterwards aids its transformation into tissues. In acute maladies of a severe and infectious character, by which the powers of the organism are reduced; in chronic diseases, of parasitic origin or otherwise, which almost inevitably lead to inanition; in rickets and in arrest of growth, lacto-phosphate of lime is a powerful element of repair, and a well indicated complement of a nutritious diet.

Many young mothers are, from various causes, unable to furnish to the fetus the calcareous substances necessary for its development, and hence produce feeble children whose life is with difficulty preserved. Numerous facts have proved that, by giving lacto-phosphate of lime to the pregnant woman, her condition can be so modified as to cause her to produce large and vigorous children, capable of resisting morbid influences.

Such are the facts which I have observed during more than fifteen years of practice, and that will be observed by all practitioners who, to secure the nutrition of their patients, will prescribe the lacto-phosphate of lime.

**ERRATA.**—In Dr. Althaus' letter on locomotor ataxy, in the JOURNAL of December 13th, p. 1212, second column, line 17 from bottom, instead of "masculine" read "muscular"; line 2 from bottom, instead of "at has been the," read "of the identical"; line 1 from bottom, instead of "of the identical," read "has been the."—In Mr. F. H. Hodges' note on "Cucaine as an Anæsthetic in Ophthalmic Surgery," in the JOURNAL of December 13th, p. 1189, column 1, line 9 of first paragraph, for "one grain to the ounce" read "one grain to the drachm."—Mr. Bilton Pollard requests us to state that his report of the cases of closure of the jaws, under the care of Mr. Christopher Heath, at page 1190 of the JOURNAL of December 13th, was drawn up from the registers kept by Mr. Victor Horsley, lately Surgical Registrar.

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## BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

- Osteotomy and Osteoclasts. By G. T. Poore, M.D. New York: Appleton and Co.  
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The Story of a Great Delusion. By W. White. London: E. W. Allen.  
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