

(5) *Fluorine* has been rather inferred, than demonstrated to exist. It occurs principally in the mineral called *Fluor spar*, in a state of combination with lime; and in this state it would seem to be harmless; but in a state of purity, it is exceedingly deleterious. One of its most remarkable properties, is that of corroding glass.

*Of Acidifiable Bases.*—We pass on now to a very different class of substances, many of which, instead of having the power of supporting combustion in other substances, are themselves combustible. From their property of generally forming acids, when combined with the supporters of combustion, they have been denominated by Dr. Thomson, *acidifiable bases*. They are seventeen in number, and the first, and perhaps the most important, we have to notice is

(6) *Hydrogen*. This principle in its elementary state, exists as a gas, having all the mecha-

ous in small doses, as had been represented. Some time before the period stated, this substance had been found in certain marine productions; and it struck the author, that burnt sponge, (a well-known remedy for goitre,) might owe its properties to the presence of Iodine, and this was his motive for making the trial. He lost sight of the case in which the remedy was employed, before any visible alteration was made in the state of disease; but not before some of the most striking effects of the remedy were observed. The above employment of the compounds of Iodine in medicine was, at the time, made no secret; and so early as 1819, the remedy was adopted in St. Thomas's Hospital, by Dr. Elliotson, at the author's suggestion.