

a veritable furuncular martyr, equalling Job in suffering, but unlike that worthy was sadly deficient in the matter of patience. Having undergone several unsuccessful courses of internal medication, however judicious I will not say, but, at all events, including the celebrated remedy so popular with the late Mr. Squeers of Dotheboys Hall—the patient at last applied to me. Knowing that tincture of lobelia had been recommended for the dispersion of felons and whitlows, and as some of the fluid extract was just being bottled I told him to apply a little of it to two very promising abscesses which were in process of establishment on his neck. The application was made and repeated several times during the day, with the effect of driving away the boils; nor did they again make their appearance. During the two years that have elapsed since this incident I have had numerous opportunities of trying this remedy, and except in the more advanced stages of furuncle, with invariable success. It might be that lobelia could be employed with advantage for some of the purposes for which iodine is now employed, thereby avoiding the unsightly discolorations of the skin caused by the latter substance.

## GUN COTTON AND ITS PREPARATIONS.\*

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From an Inaugural Essay by the Author.

A number of experiments were tried, with a view of ascertaining the relative proportions of cotton and acids, together with the proper time for maceration necessary to produce a cotton which should combine the largest yield with the highest explosive power and solubility. The following formula was at length adopted:

Raw Cotton.....	2 parts.
Carbonate Potassa.....	1 "
Distilled Water.....	100 "

Boil for several hours, adding water to keep up the measure; then wash until free from any alkali, and dry. Then take of:

Purified Cotton.....	7 oz. av.
Nitrous Acid, † s. g. 1.42.....	4 pts.
Sulphuric Acid, " 1.84.....	4 "

\*From the American Journal of Pharmacy, June 1872.

†Nitric, saturated with nitrous acid.—ED. AMER. JOUR. PHARM.