

SELECTIONS.

THE CHOLAGOUE property of salicylate of sodium was made known by Rutherford, but has not received much attention. Professor Germain See now reports (*London Lancet*) that he has found it to be the most efficient of all cholagogues in promoting the expulsion of gall-stones.

TEST FOR GUAIACOL. The addition of concentrated sulphuric acid and a minute quantity of acetone to guaiacol or its compounds (benzozol, etc.) produces a beautiful cherry-red or purplish red coloration; the addition of two volumes of chloroform to the test and agitation makes the color more pronounced.—*Pharm. Ztg.*

A NEW LABEL PASTE.—The *Moniteur Industriel* gives the following:—Macerate in a small quantity of water 120 gm. of gum arabic, and in another vessel, with a similar quantity of water, 30 gm. of tragacanth. When the latter is thoroughly swollen rub it up until it makes a homogeneous magma, and to this add the gum arabic. Force the mass through a linen strainer, and to the mixture add 120 cem. glycerine and 2.50 cem. oil of thyme, and bring the volume up to 1 liter by adding distilled water and thoroughly incorporating the whole. This preparation should be preserved in well-stoppered bottles.

IODIDES OF ANTIPYRIN. M. Duroy reports (*Bulletin de l'Academie de Medicine*) that he has obtained several iodides of antipyrin, all of which are capable of being used in therapeutics. The method of preparing an iodide of antipyrin is very simple. One equivalent of iodine dissolved in alcohol of 90°, and brought into contact with an equivalent of antipyrin dissolved in five times its weight of distilled water, yields a brick-yellow precipitate which is antipyrin iodide. It is soluble in two and-a-half times its weight of water at 25° C.

LINIMENTA EXSICCANTIA or drying liniments are intended as an improvement on the gelatin treatment in dermal practice. The base is made by either triturating in a mortar or heating in a suitable vessel 5 parts tragacanth, 2 parts glycerine and 100 parts water; made by the aid of heat the preparation keeps without the addition of antiseptics; the advantages of this base are that it can be applied in very thin layers, and can be removed by simply washing with water. To medicate the base, soluble substances are dissolved in the water used to make the base; insoluble substances, oils, iodoform, zinc oxide, etc., are triturated in the mortar with the previously-made base.—*Pharm. Post Id. of Pharmacy.*

Quinino Albuminate.

A preparation described as being a homogeneous compound of egg albumen with quinine, possessing the remarkable property of not being decomposed by the strongest alkalies, has been recently introduced by M. Tarozzi (*Union. Pharm.*,

May, p. 196). It is claimed that the preparation is easily absorbable by the mucous membrane of the stomach and passes into the circulation, where it exercises its therapeutic properties without undergoing decomposition, under conditions in which the ordinary salts of quinine are broken up by the alkaline liquids of the system. This "albuminate of quinine" is stated to be prepared by double decomposition between sulphate of quinine and albuminate of soda, but the manner of operating is not indicated. The product is a white amorphous bitter substance, said to contain fifty-six per cent. of quinine; it is alkaline in reaction, dissolves more readily in hot water or alcohol than in cold, and more freely still in water acidulated with lactic or hydrochloric acid. It may be distinguished from other salts of quinine by treating it with water, acidulated with sulphuric acid, which forms with the quinine soluble acid sulphate, the albumen being precipitate after standing.—*Pharmaceutical Journal and Transactions.*

Detection of Oil of Camphor When Used as an Adulterant.*

BY A. B. STEVENS, ANN ARBOR, MICH.

IN 1888 the writer presented to this association a test for the detection of oil of camphor when it is used in the adulteration of oil of peppermint. The test, with a slight modification, is as follows:—

Place a drachm of nitric acid (sp. gr. 1.42) in a test tube, add one drop of the suspected oil, and agitate gently. The color of the mixture may vary from light yellow to red. If the oil is pure the red color will disappear in from twenty minutes to two hours. If oil of camphor is present the red color will remain for twenty-four hours, and even longer, if not exposed to too strong a light. This test is reasonably delicate, as less than 5 per cent. of oil of camphor may be detected by it.

Since the paper of 1888, numerous tests have been made to ascertain to what extent it can be relied upon for the detection of oil of camphor in other volatile oils. The greatest difficulty encountered was in obtaining perfectly pure oil. In some cases it was necessarily obtained by distillation. For a year or two all of the oil of cajuput met with gave results similar to those of oil of camphor. Indeed, one manufacturer stated that pure oil of cajuput would always give similar results. However, since that time I have found two samples of oil of cajuput, neither of which gave the test for oil of camphor; one of these samples was from an original package from J. E. Davis & Co., and the other was presented by the agricultural department. It is, therefore, a reasonable conclusion that the test may be relied upon for the detection of oil of camphor when present in oil of cajuput, and, fur-

* Read at the meeting of the A. P. A. at New Orleans.

ther, that nearly all of the oil of cajuput of the market is adulterated with oil of camphor.

By numerous experiments it has been ascertained that this test may be relied upon for the detection of oil of camphor in the following volatile oils, viz.:—Orange peel, orange flower, erigeron, lavender flowers, rose, juniper wood and berries, cedar wood, hemlock, lemon, lemon grass, thyme, cajuput, citronella, eucalyptus, anise, rosemary, caraway, bergamot, cloves, coriander, cassia, and cinnamon. Pimento gives a red color, almost identical with oil of camphor, but the reaction is exceedingly violent, and gives off dense brown fumes. Oil of nutmeg gives similar results. Strong sunlight will completely bleach out the red color produced by oil of nutmegs in less than an hour, and that produced by pimento in four hours, while that produced by oil of camphor requires twelve hours.

The only oil I have thus far found that gives identical results with oil of camphor is oil of sassafras, and these two oils are somewhat similar, as both contain sulfol.

Facts.

The poet Tennyson can take a worthless sheet of paper, and by writing a poem on it make it worth sixty-five thousand dollars.—That's genius.

Vanderbilt can write a few words on a sheet of paper, and make it worth five million dollars.—That's capital.

The United States can take an ounce and a quarter of gold and stamp upon it an "Eagle bird" and make it worth twenty dollars.—That's money.

The mechanic can take material worth five dollars and make it into a watch worth one hundred dollars.—That's skill.

The merchant can take an article worth seventy-five cents and sell it for a dollar.—That's business.

A lady can purchase a very comfortable bonnet for three dollars and seventy-five cents; but she prefers one that costs twenty-seven dollars.—That's foolishness.

The ditch digger works ten hours a day and shovels three or four tons of earth for two dollars.—That's labor.

The editor of this paper could write a check for eighty million dollars, but it would not be worth a nickel.—That's rough.—*The Bookkeeper.*

MEDICAL PROGRESS?—This was sent by a medical man in Indiana to one of the medical journals in that State:

Dear dock I hav a pashunt whos phisicel sines shoes that the windpipe has ulcerated of, and his lung have drop intoo his stumick. he is unabel to swoller and I fear his stumick tube is gon. I hav giv him every thing without effect. his father is wealthy, Onerable and influenshial. He is an active member off the M. E. Chirsch and god nose I dont want too loose hym. what shal I due. ans. buy returine male yours in neede.

—*Pharm. Record*