

cipitate is purified by dialysis. Iodospingine is a light powder turning brownish black in the air. It is insoluble in water, sparingly soluble in alcohol, but readily dissolved by alkalies and ammonia, from which solutions it may be reprecipitated by acids and ammonium sulphate.—*Pharm. Centr.*

A RESORCIN ANTISEPTIC SOAP.—A new antiseptic soap, patented in France, is prepared by combining a neutral soap with resorcin, which is antiseptic and resists fermentation, as well as essence of Ceylon cinnamon, which is an antiseptic perfume, and other essential oils, and balsamic tinctures. The following is the actual process employed in the manufacture: A quarter of a pound of resorcin is dissolved in two pounds of pure glycerine (30° B.), and added then to a hundred pounds of very white and neutral soap. Subsequently a quarter of a pound of the essence of Ceylon cinnamon, and such smaller quantities as may be deemed advisable of the other ingredients mentioned above, are added. The finished soap is made into cakes or leaves, or other desired shapes.

THE PREPARATION OF IODOFORM BY ELECTROLYSIS.—According to Foerster and Meves, the yield of iodoform prepared by means of an electric current acting on a solution containing alcohol, soda, and iodide of potassium is very good when a current of only one ampere is employed. If a greater current strength be employed the yield of iodoform is lower, whilst iodate of potassium is formed in larger quantity.—*Journ. f. Prakt. Chem.*

A PREPARATION OF KOUMYS may be made, according to the *Dietetic and Hygienic Gazette* for August, as follows: Fill a quart champagne bottle to the neck with pure cow's milk; add two tablespoonfuls of white sugar, first dissolving it in a little water by the aid of heat; add also a quarter of a two-cent cake of yeast. Then securely fasten the cork in the bottle and shake the mixture well; place it in a room having a temperature of from 70° to 80° F. for six hours and finally in an ice-box for about twelve hours. It is then ready for use and may be taken in quantities varying with the requirements of the stomach and general condition of the patient. In preparing koumys it is well to make sure that the milk is pure, that the bottle is sound and the yeast is fresh. The bottle should

be opened with great care on account of the effervescent properties of the mixture, and the latter should be discarded and not drunk at all if there is any curdle or thickened masses resembling cheese, as these indicate that the fermentation has been prolonged beyond the proper time. It should be prepared as required for use. The virtue of koumys resides in the fact that it nourishes, refreshes and stimulates, with no subsequent reaction from its effects. Koumys contains some alcohol, with fat, casein, lactic acid and carbonic acid gas. The cost is about fifteen cents per quart, including the bottle.—*The Medical Age.*

THE ACTIVE PRINCIPLES OF RHUBARB.—An excellent paper on this subject is published by Gilson in a recent number of the *Revue Pharmaceutique de Flandres*. After detailing the long list of the various bodies which different observers state they have found, Gilson concludes that many of these are mixtures and not pure compounds at all. He claims now to have isolated a body by means of the solvent acetone, which occurs in star-like groups of yellow needles, tasteless, odorless, melting at 209°, slightly soluble in water and alcohol, but insoluble in ether. It dissolves in caustic alkali solution to a red liquid; it is decomposed by dilute acids into chrysophanic acid and a dextrorotary sugar which reduces Fehling's solution, and is, therefore, a glucoside. But it differs entirely from that obtained by Kubly, which had a very bitter taste. Gilson, however, does not claim that this is the only glucoside of rhubarb root, for in the mother liquors, during the crystallization of the body, he found emodine and rheine. He considers that these bodies, however, exist, for the most part, in a combined state in the root, as glucosides. The author hopes to be able to apply his results to the determination of the therapeutic value of this important drug.—*Brit. Col. Druggist.*

Burdock as a Vegetable.

What is regarded as a vile weed can, with a little stretch of imagination, be turned into an ornamental plant or delicious vegetable. This is especially the case with the common burdock, *Lappa major*. Schoolboys all know it from gathering the burs and compressing them into a ball, they being held together by the curved points of the floral involucre. This is all they know about it. It is difficult to see

anything more to be despised in the burdock leaf than in the leaf of the rhubarb. It appears that it is largely used in China for food. But it is stated that, if the stalks be cut down before the flowers expand and then be boiled, the taste is relished equally with asparagus. The leaves, when young, are boiled and eaten as we eat spinach. In Japan, it is in universal use. Thousands of acres are devoted to its culture. But in this case the root is the object. It requires deep soil to get the roots to the best advantage. The common name, in China, is Gobbo—a name, however, which need not replace our common one of burdock.—*Meehan's Monthly.*

Milk Somatose.

BY DR. J. P. ZUM BUSCH, CHIEF PHYSICIAN AT THE GERMAN HOSPITAL IN LONDON.

Under the above description, *The Elberfeld Farbenfabriken* introduced into the market a new albuminous preparation, which is manufactured from the albumoses of milk with 5 per cent. of tannic acid in chemical connection. The drug, a brownish yellow powder, is entirely inodorous, and especially free from the putrefactive smell so disturbing with many other similar preparations; it keeps well for some time even in an open tin, and is easily and completely dissolved. When making the solution, it is, however, necessary to conform strictly to the instructions given by the firm and not to pour the powder simply into the medium to be employed, as it will then become a sticky and insoluble mass. If the powder is stirred with some cold water to a uniform paste, it will dissolve immediately when hot water is added. The solution so obtained is easily mixed with extract of meat, milk, coffee and numerous other liquids, and may be administered to patients, even without their knowledge, as it is nearly tasteless. But even in a simple watery solution, the drug was readily taken by all my patients, and it was never repugnant to the taste even with continued use.

I have used the drug repeatedly in convalescence after severe diseases of various kinds, and then especially in intestinal diseases of rachitic children. The dose given to children was half that administered to adults: Half a teaspoonful, 3 times daily, given always in milk. Under such treatment the stool regulated itself very quickly and I am decidedly of the opinion that Milk Somatose influences