

SALYCILIC ACID IN FOOD.

It is well-known to-day that salicylic acid is a powerful antiseptic. As such it retards the action of organized ferments like the yeast plant and putrefactive bacteria. It hinders and prevents fermentation, the souring of milk, and the putrefaction of milk. Its action upon unorganized ferments is even more powerful. It completely arrests the conversion of starch into grape sugar by disease and pancreatic extracts. This action is directly opposed to the process of digestion, and, were there no other reason, the use of salicylic acid should be universally condemned. These facts in connection with salicylic acid have been recognized very thoroughly in legislation. The use of the acid has been condemned by most of the European countries having pure food laws. In France it is forbidden by law. In Austria, Italy and Spain it cannot be used without the

danger of incurring a heavy penalty, and all South American States having pure food laws have absolutely forbidden its sale. The laws of many of the States forbid its use. By a decision of Mr. Wells, the dairy and food commissioner, the use of salicylic acid in food is prohibited in Pennsylvania.

I wish to call attention here to another fact in connection with the use of salicylic acid which is of extreme importance, viz, the sale of preservalines, preservatives, etc., under various high-sounding names, intended for use in private families. A number of these, claimed to be perfectly harmless, are on the market, but actually contain salicylic acid as the main ingredient. The conscientious and careful housekeeper should put an absolute veto upon the the use of any such compound.—The Sanitarian.

TRANSPLANTING FERNS.—The best time to transplant wild ferns is in the spring, when they first start a new growth, though with care they may be transplanted any time during the spring and summer months. The soil used should be light and porous. Pure woods earth mixed with leaf-mould is a good composition. It is a good idea when possible to secure the soil where the Ferns grow wild. If planted in a bed it should have a shaded situation free from the direct rays of the sun. After removing the dirt from the bed for about two feet fill in with some coarse gravel and a layer of dried grass, then fill in with the prepared dirt. Ferns like a moist, but not a soggy soil. If you have a good

situation with neither too much sun, nor too much shade, try a bed of wild Ferns bordered with Pansies, and you will have a "thing of beauty and joy forever," or at least while the summer lasts.

\$500 for Suburban Houses. —

The editors of *The Ladies' Home Journal* offer five hundred dollars in prizes for photographs of the prettiest suburban houses. In this way the *Journal* will secure pictures of the most attractive summer homes in this country, and from these a selection will be made for publication. The great interest in the American home — inside and outside — is shown in this offer of big prizes.