

been sold, peace was declared. The combination at once announced an advance of 9 cents per lb., and bromides of the alkalis were consequently simultaneously affected. Several firms here have large contracts and one has considerably over a ton yet to be delivered at the old price before the end of the year.

FORMULÆ.

Rheumatism and Gout Specific.—Iodide of potash, 40 grs.; bicarbonate of soda, 80 grs.; vinum sem. colchici, 4 drs.; aqua dest. to 8 fluid ounces. Half-ounce doses.

Little Liver Pills.—Aloin, $\frac{1}{2}$ grs.; Podophyllin, $\frac{1}{2}$ gr.; ext. hyosey., $\frac{1}{2}$ gr.; ext. nux vom., $\frac{1}{2}$ gr.; jalapine, $\frac{1}{10}$ gr.; gingerine, $\frac{1}{20}$ gr. Fiat pil, 1.

Eczema Cream.—Bismuth, subnit., 4 drachms; zinc, oxid., 2 drachms; acid carboic, liq., $\frac{1}{2}$ drachm; lanoline, 1 oz.; white vaseline, 2 ozs.

Liquor Sennæ Dulc.—Infuse 5 lbs. of fol. senna in a gallon of boiling water; strain and evaporate to 2 pints; add $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. of sugar and 1 oz. of rectified spirit with 10 drops of oil of coriander and 5 drops of oil of cassia.

Sponge-Bleaching.

E. J. EVANS.

Among the various articles retailed by chemists few bring in less profit than these, and this arises principally from the practice in vogue of buying them ready bleached. My experience, extending over 16 years, is that original bales should be bought just as received from the fisheries. These, as a rule, will be from 40s. to 200s. per bale, comprising all qualities, and will average from 3d. to 6d. per sponge. These, after treatment, will fetch 2s. to 4s. each, thus giving a very good profit of about 400 per cent.

Having got the bale, the first thing to be done is to clean, wash and squeeze out the sponges. They should be well beaten to get rid of sand and loose earthy matter, soaked in water for some hours, then squeezed dry, and placed in a tub containing hydrochloric acid and water (acid hydroch. dil. B. P. does very well for strength). After remaining in this solution until all effervescence is over and no hard particles are seen or felt—stirring them about with a stick is useful to hasten the process—they should be well squeezed and transferred to a pan of water under a running tap.

Next, the sponges are placed in a two-per cent. solution of potassium permanganate. After soaking them for a few minutes—the exact time can be best judged by the colour, which ought to be dark brown—they are removed, again washed, and put into another tub of solution of half-a-pound sodium hyposulphite and one ounce oxalic acid to one gallon of water. Here the sponges soak for about fifteen minutes.

Finally, take them out and wash them thoroughly. By this treatment the sponges are rendered perfectly white and

remain so. Many sponges contain a more or less dark coloured core, and if treated only with permanganate and acid the core is either not bleached at all, or if bleached somewhat the tint is apt to grow darker again. By the combination of the three solutions every portion is thoroughly and permanently whitened.

Done in this way sponges compare very favorably with the ready-bleached, and sell more readily, being half the price.

The cost in this way is a penny or two per sponge, and the time may be any spare time, or it can be done by apprentice or errand boy. To remove water a clothes-wringer is best. A little glycerine added to the last wash water will keep the sponges soft.—*British & Colonial Druggist.*

Some Store Rules.

1. During business hours all hands must be employed and never be idle.

2. Never let a customer wait. Every other duty should give way to waiting on the counter if it can possibly be done.

3. Every person entering the store, whether laboring man or bank president, rich or poor, small boy or big man, white or colored, should be treated alike with courtesy and kindness.

4. Boisterous mirth or loud conversation, as well as sullen temper or indifferent, cold bearing, are to be carefully avoided as unbecoming the character of the employe and not tending to improve the business. A uniformly cheerful and manly bearing is an attainment which is far beyond the price it usually costs, and should pervade the whole establishment.

5. Let the most experienced clerk attend to waiting on the counter.

6. Have a place for everything and keep everything in its place.

7. Let every one of the employes of the store feel at home, and let none think he is master, and none think he is servant; let a feeling of mutual respect and animation permeate the atmosphere of the store, for each one is to feel conscious of the fact that the performance of the duties assigned to him is of equal importance and just as necessary as those of any man behind the counter.

8. Devote one day of every week to the thorough cleaning of the store. Observe and maintain absolute neatness, perfect order and thorough cleanliness of the whole establishment. Do not fail to have the apprentice go over all the counters, show cases and desks with a moist towel to remove the dust early in the morning, and repeat in the afternoon, or just as often as it becomes necessary.

9. Keep your order book in a convenient place, and take special care that all the drawers, shelves and cases are well supplied with their respective articles.

10. See that the counter is well supplied with wrapping paper of various sizes.

11. Do not tolerate any lounging in the store; carefully avoid the congregation of sports who like to meet at a store. Do

not invite any of your friends to your store; it is better to go out and visit them, lest the store becomes the gossiping place of the neighborhood, and repel many a lady customer.—J. F. W. Helmuth in *Pharmaceutical Record*.

Essential Oils as Bactericides.

M. Omeltschenko has made experiments which confirm the views previously put forward that the vapors of essential oils exercise a bactericidal action. By using specially contrived cultured flasks and passing through them air impregnated with the vapors to be studied, he was able also to establish the quantity necessary per liter of air. Thus the bacillus of typhus was killed by air containing the vapor from oil of cinnamon, 0.0005 gramme per liter, or oil of valerian, 0.0082 gramme per liter, in forty-five minutes. The bacillus of tuberculosis required to be exposed for twenty-three hours to air containing 0.018 gramme per liter of oil of cinnamon before fatal effects were produced. Oil of lavender, 0.0078 gramme per liter, effected the same result in twelve hours, and oil of eucalyptus 0.0252 gramme per liter, in the same length of time. The degree of saturation must be maintained, or, after the first effects of the vapors pass off, though the growth of the germs is prevented, their vitality is not destroyed. The oils are classified according to their strength as germicides, thus—cinnamon, fennel, lavender, cloves, thyme, mint, anise, eucalyptus, terpenine, lemon and rose, the last two being very weak in disinfecting power.—*Fact. World.*

The Tokmari Seed

In the *Indian Agriculturist*, Assistant-Surgeon Asutosh Ghose writes a paper on Tokmari seed, which he thinks would probably become an article of some commercial importance if its medicinal value was better known. Tokmari-seeds are used in the form of a poultice as a remedy in cases of ulcers and inflammations, and are said to have given excellent results at the Campbell Medical Hospital in Calcutta, and other similar institutions. The Tokmari plant (*Lollemantia Royleana* vel *Dracocephalum Royle Benth.*) is a small annual of the N. O. Labiate. It grows wild in the Panjab and is said to be cultivated in Behar. The word "Tokmari" is a corruption of "Tukhm-balanga," the Persian name of the seed. It does not appear that it ever received a Sanskrit name, or that it ever found a place in the Sanskrit Pharmacopoeia. It has, however, been favorably mentioned in "Talif Sharif" and other Hakimi works, from which it is to be inferred that it was first introduced in the palmy days of the Mahomedan emperors. When soaked in water the Tokmari-seeds swell up into a jelly, in which form they are used in making sherbets. The jelly is also sometimes strained through a piece of muslin, and the mucilaginous portion thus separ-