tanising or strychnine-like effect; whilst the second, gelseminine, actually paralyses by exerting a curative-like action upon the motor-nerve terminations. Yet this drug has been used in medicine as a sports*man would use a swivel-gun, and he* thought it would be wisdom to withhold the introduction of such a body into an official list until such information as is requisite for its scientific adaptation and employment in treatment is actually in our hands. Referring to the use of

INTERNAL DISINFECTANTS,

Professor Cash said that this is a department of medicine in which the progress has been disappointing. It does not follow that a substance which is a disinfectant outside the body will have that power inside it. Some years ago he was working for the Local Government Board on the subject, and he tested a number of disinfectants by administering them for a long period to animals which were ultimately inoculated with pathogenic microorganisms. In this way, amongst other bodies, sulphocarbolate of sodium, phenylpropionic acid and its potassium and sodium salts were examined, but with regard to both anthrax and tuberculosis the results were practically negative, no increased resistance of the invasion of these disorders having been observable. Perchloride of mercury gave more encouraging results, however, and he ultimately succeeded in demonstrating that this body produced an immunising action when administered daily to rabbits in minute doses before the inoculation of anthrax took place. Positive results have been recently obtained by the method of Kitasato, as applied by Behring, who successfully administered the disinfectant—in this case the terchloride of iodine—after infection had been communicated by inoculation of the tetanus bacillus. Little as there is to show as yet, Professor Cash believes that with the introduction of disinfectants which, while having a high toxicity towards microbes are relatively innocuous towards the tissues of the higher animals, we may still obtain a brilliant reward. Such treatment will be prophylactic as well as curative.

TOXALBUMINS

were then spoken of, beginning with the ricin of castor-oil seeds and abrin of *Abrus precatorius*. Ehrlich's work on these toxalbumins was described, and this gradually led up to some considerations in regard to the use of animal extracts, especially thyroid extract, in the treatment of myxœdema. He also spoke generally of the production of immunity to disease by the injection of serum which has been proved to possess protective influence. Thus fowls, which are very resistant by nature to the tetanus bacillus, become more so when inoculated with the bacillus, *and the serum of their blood thus* confers immunity upon rabbits, which are highly sensitive against this pathogenic microbe. Just, however, as there is no immunity produced by one toxalbumin (such as ricin) towards another, so we have no evidence that the animal protected against tetanus acquires any increased resistance against tuberculosis or anthrax. Having described Brieger and Kisato's research on diphtheria, and Haffkine's on *cholera, which have resulted in the* preparation of appropriate vaccines, Professor Cash concluded with some comments on pharmacological research and by wishing the Branch a successful session.—*Chemist and Druggist.*

WM. B. MCVEY, PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMIST, PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY AT COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS, LATE OF CHEMICAL DEPARTMENT OF BOSTON DENTAL COLLEGE.

The subject of the above engraving was born in Kings Co., N. B., Canada, July, 1866, where his early boyhood days were spent. When 10 years old, his parents moved to St. John, N. B, where he received a good education. At the age of 16 he entered the drug store of Harrington Bros., and after serving the necessary 4 years' apprenticeship, passed the examinations of the Pharmaceutical Society, securing first class diploma, and then entered the employ of R. W. McCarty as prescription clerk, but shortly afterwards was granted leave of absence in order to take the required course of studies at the Ontario College of Pharmacy, Toronto. After successfully completing his studies, he returned to his former position. On his return was appointed Council examiner to the Pharmaceutical Society, and for three years was elected a member of the N. B. Pharm. Council. His term as examiner having expired, was on recommendation of the Council, appointed Government Examiner in Chemistry. Having abandoned his drug interests, he removed to Boston and entered the employ of the *Maverick Drug Co. as manager* of one of their branch stores. The study of chemistry being his favorite one, he decided to take up professional studies, and entered Harvard University. Last year was appointed assistant Professor of Chemistry at the Boston Dental College, and, on the resignation of Prof. Sharpler before the term expired, was selected as his successor, on the opening of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, which has been reorganized, and now occupy their extensive new buildings. Mr. McVey was elected Professor of Chemistry at that institution and has accepted the new honor, and resigned his former position at the Boston Dental College, at which he was very popular. He is prominently identified with many leading pharmaceutical and scientific societies, and is a member of the Canadian Club of Harvard University. He is an active worker in the field of toxic chemistry, and during the vacation season has made arrangements to enable him to pursue this advance work in Germany, in the laboratory of the celebrated chemist, Dr. C. Fresenius.

The Preparation of Thiosapoles.

Thiosapoles are a class of soaps containing sulphur in chemical combination, and are intended for toilet, cosmetic and dermatological purposes. To prepare these soaps, fats or resin acids or natural fats or oils of the unsaturated hydrocarbons are heated to 120° to 160° C. with sulphur until combination has been effected. The resulting thio-acids or thio fats are mixed with fat or resin acids that have not been thus treated, and then saponified with bases at a low temperature.

The thio-acids are mixed with an equivalent of dilute alkali solution (1 molecule alkali being employed for 1 molecule acid); the temperature being kept at about 25° C. by suitable refrigeration. The soap is then separated from the liquor. Or, the thio-acids may be dissolved in 2 parts of 90% alcohol and a strong solution of alkali gradually added to neutralization, and the saponified product then evaporated to dryness at about 50° C.

Thio-oleate of sodium is prepared by heating for 4 hours at 120° to 160° C. 1 kg. oleic acid with 120 gms. sulphur. The sulphur will be dissolved and should not separate in cooling. 600 gms. solution of sodium hydroxide (25% NaOH) is now added and the resulting soap separated from the mother liquor, or the thio-acid dissolved in 2 kg. of 90% alcohol and 430 gms. of a 35% solution of sodium hydroxide added and the whole evaporated to dryness in a water bath.—*Pharm. Zeitung.*

ALLIGATORINE.—This product is suggested as a basis for ointments. The fat of alligators is saponified by alcoholic potash, the soap decomposed by hydrochloric acid and the fatty acids—alligatoric acid, as the introducer terms it—mixed with cotton-seed oil. This is what *is termed alligatorine. It is urged that* the metallic salts of this peculiar acid are readily absorbed by the skin.—*Repertiore de Pharmacie*

Don't take your work as a dose.