

obtained from two species of *Corchorus*; *C. capsularis* and *C. olitorius*. The plants belong to the order *Tiliaceæ*, of which the Linden or Button-wood tree is a representative in our latitude. They are natives of India, and are extensively cultivated in Bengal. The *C. capsularis*, that is the more valuable of the two, yields a fibre (the inner bark) sometimes twelve feet in length, which is strong and durable. Its liability to injury by moisture unfits it for the manufacture of cordage, and the difficulty with which it is bleached renders it unsuitable for making paper except of a coarse quality. But its value as a material for carpeting and such heavy fabrics has caused a vast trade to spring up. Nearly every producing country imports either jute, or gunny-bags made from it. Jute bags are used for the cottons of India and America, and for the spices, fruits and miscellaneous produce of other countries.—*Pharmacist*.

AN IMPROVED POULTICE—At a recent meeting of the Academie de Medicine, Paris, M. Le Fort read his report on a substitute for the ordinary linseed-meal poultice invented by M. Lelievre. It is prepared by saturating two superimposed layers of wadding with a solution of *Fucus crispus*, or Carrageen lichen, and drying them in a stove after they had been submitted to pressure. In this way a sheet of the consistence of cardboard is produced, a portion of which is cut off when wanted, and soaked in hot water for fifteen or twenty minutes; this swells it out and fills its tissue with a mucilaginous fluid. It has been tried in several of the hospitals, to the great satisfaction of both patients and attendants. It can be prepared in large quantities beforehand, and will keep for a long time without undergoing any alteration. MM. Demarquay, Gosselin, and Varneuil pronounce it to be far superior to the linseed poultice; it keeps moist for more than sixteen or eighteen hours; it does not slip, is inodorous, does not readily ferment, nor does it soil the linen or bed of the patient. The new poultice is destined to render great service in hospitals and ambulances and above all on board ship, where it is difficult to keep the linseed in a good state of preservation.

RED MARKING-INK.—According to Th. Wegler, egg albumen is diluted with an equal weight of water, rapidly stirred with a glass rod until it foams, and then filtered through linen. The filtrate is mixed with a sufficient quantity of finely levigated vermilion until a rather thick liquid is obtained, which is used for marking with a quill; the rear side is then touched with a hot flat iron, whereby the albumen is coagulated; the marking is affected neither by soap, alkalies, nor acids. The ink may be preserved for a long time, in well-corked vials, without depositing the vermilion.—*Four. Pharm—Pharm. Centr. Halle*.

INGENIOUS USE OF ANALYSIS.—A German chemist determines by chemical analysis the amount of water evaporated in a steam boiler.

By means of a standard solution of nitrate of silver, he first determines the quantity of chlorine in the feed water, and then the quantity of chlorine in the water of the boiler at two different times, several days apart. From the increased quantity of chlorides he calculates the amount of water evaporated. He recommends as a suitable normal solution of silver to dissolve 23.94 grains nitrate of silver in 1,000 cubic centimetres of distilled water. Each cubic centimetre of this solution will precipitate exactly five milligrammes of chlorine. To indicate the end of the reaction, when all the chlorine is precipitated, he employs the neutral chromate of silver, which produces with any excess of silver solution, a bright-red color.—*American Gaslight Journal*.