

dition, contains an oleo-resin soluble in alcohol, and insoluble in benzine. It has a bitter taste, and produces in lower animals and birds choreic movements of the head, in cocks, especially of the comb. Besides this substance, a red matter has also been extracted, which is highly poisonous, causing tetanic convulsions and death very rapidly in chickens and frogs. The effects denote the presence of a principle analogous to strychnine. This substance, dissolved in oil, has been successfully used by M. Lombroso as a specific (externally applied) for inveterate skin diseases, eczema and psoriasis.—*Rep. de Pharm.*, 1876, 9. *New Remedies.*

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NEW SOURCE OF TANNIN.—A plant which grows luxuriously in the West—the *Polygonum Amphibium* L.—has been discovered to contain a very large amount of tannin. Samples of the plant analysed by Prof. Aughey, of the University of Nebraska, show that it contains of tannin in the roots 21.75 per cent., and in the stems 17.10 per cent. Sumac yields about 16 per cent., and oak-bark from 8 to 12 per cent. It is believed that the plant may be of great commercial importance to the West. It can easily be grown from the seeds, and yields from three to six tons per acre. It is said to be capable of producing all kinds of leather. If the reports in regard to the plant are reliable, it will prove one of the most important discoveries of the decade.—*New Remedies.*

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TO PRESERVE MUCILAGE.—In *Pharm. Zeitung*, D. Preston recommends the use of salicylic acid for preventing the decomposition of mucilage, which, as generally prepared, undergoes, rapid change, becomes sour and ropy, and unfit for use. The very slight solubility of salicylic acid in water renders the use of it less objectionable than would otherwise be the case. Instead of using pure water, the gum is dissolved in an equal weight of a previously prepared aqueous solution of salicylic acid; such a mucilage, even after standing a month, shows no trace of decomposition.—*Chemist & Druggist.*

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A NEW ALLOTROPIC FORM OF PHOSPHORUS.—If phosphorus be boiled for five minutes with strong caustic potassa solution, and afterwards washed with water, it retains its liquid form for months at temperatures far below the freezing point of ordinary phosphorus. By sudden cooling, the liquid phosphorus solidifies at  $3.3^{\circ}$ . It does not oxidize in the air, nor does it emit light in the dark. When this variety of phosphorus solidifies, the ordinary phosphorus as well as a crystalline variety are produced.—*Chem. Centralb.*, 1875, p. 114.