

ful for hospitals and sick chambers, as it burns without smell, or the nursery, for heating food, and for many other purposes where heating flame may be produced at a moment's notice. One point in connection with the material is that as it burns the solidity of the bulk of the material is maintained, only a portion at the top becoming liquefied. When the flame is blown out solidification again ensues immediately. We think that the new invention, which is a most ingenious one, will be found extremely useful, and we confidently predict for it a great success.—*Oils, Colors, and Drysalteries.*

Artificial Camphor.

According to a patent recently taken out artificial camphor—i.e., true camphor, not the terpene hydrochloride often called by this name—can be prepared in either of the following methods: 1. Pinene mono-hydrochloride is prepared by acting on American turpentine with hydrochloric acid gas. This is purified by sublimation in a current of steam, and converted into camphene by heating with an alkali and sodium acetate. The camphene is then oxydised, by heating it with alkaline permanganate, to camphor. 2. Camphoric acid $C_{10}H_{16}O_4$ is produced by the prolonged action of hot air and water on ordinary turpentine, and is reduced by nascent hydrogen to camphor.—*Apotheker Zeitung.*

Kreosoform.

According to the French patent this disinfectant is prepared by mixing 1000 gms. of creosote, 800 gms. of 40 p.c. formaldehyde solution and 1500 gms. of hydrochloric acid. The resulting condensation product after washing with water forms a greenish, inodorous, tasteless and insoluble mass. Creosote can be replaced by guaiacol, but in this case it is necessary to warm the mixture in order to promote reaction. The resulting compound is yellowish in color. Both compounds have been known for some time under the names of Kreoform and Geoform respectively.—*Phar. Centr., 40, p. 151 V. C.*

Crystallin.

This is a solution of pyroxylin, in which the ether and alcohol are replaced by wood spirit and amyl acetate. It is

prepared by dissolving 1 part of pyroxylin in a mixture of 4 parts of wood spirit and 15 parts of amyl acetate. By adding 5 parts of castor oil and 10 parts of Canada balsam to 20 parts of crystallin, "elastic crystallin" is obtained. Crystallin is claimed to have the advantage of drying less rapidly than collodion and leaving a clear, transparent film.—*Drog. Zeit.*

Syrup of Rhubarb.

F. W. Haussmann suggests the following process for making a syrup of rhubarb which he regards as an improvement on the B.P. and U.S.P. preparations: Mix 4 C.c. of spirit of cinnamon, U.S.P., with 100 C.c. of fluid extract of rhubarb, U.S.P., and add 375 C.c. of water in which 10 Gm. of potassium carbonate has previously been dissolved. Allow the mixture to stand for two hours, with occasional agitation, then filter and pass sufficient water through the filter to bring the volume of liquid to 475 C.c. In this dissolve 750 Gm. of sugar by agitation, without heat, and strain, finally, add sufficient water to make 1,000 C.c. of the finished syrup.—*Am. Journ. Pharm., 71, 267.*

Bottle Closure for Sterilized Liquids.

Evers (*Pharm. Zeit.*) proposes the following as a simple and efficient method for closing bottles subjected to sterilization. With a red-hot wire pierce a hole through a prime cork from the middle of its side diagonally through to the centre of the nether surface. Insert this cork into the neck of the bottle in such a manner that the lateral opening is just above the lip, thus permitting the escape of gases. When the process is finished, drive down the cork into the neck, when the bottle will be closed air-tight.

Aspirin.

Aspirin is an acetic ester of salicylic acid. It is intended to supplant salicylic acid and the salicylates in medicine. It is obtained by the action of acetic anhydride on salicylic acid and crystallizes in form of white needles, soluble to the extent of 1 per cent. in water, very soluble in alcohol and ether, and readily decomposed by the action of dilute acids. It does not give a color reaction with ferric chloride. The advantages claimed for this compound are several. It is free from the irritating effects of salicylic acid

on the mucous membranes of the stomach. It passes through the stomach unchanged, but is slowly decomposed in the intestines with the liberation of salicylic acid and rarely causes ringing in the ears. It does not occasion gastric disturbances or loss of appetite. The dose is 3 Gm. (about 45 grains) daily, preferably given in sweetened water.—*Bull. Comm. de Pharm.*

Liquid Air as an Explosive.

The explosive power of liquid air has been shown by experiments made in Vienna in firing a cannon with its aid. It has been estimated that the explosive power is twenty times that of dynamite; it occasions no heat, but increases the firing ranges.

A Curious Poison.

Mention has been made in the Exchanges of a South American drug used by the Indians, which is called Ezcal. A grain of it has the effect of starting an irresistible desire for exertion. The victim begins walking briskly round and round in small circles till he drops dead in his tracks. There is no pain, but much excitement.

Cork Soap.

A firm of Parisian manufacturers make a cork soap to float on water which has still the outward appearance of an ordinary toilet soap. It may be prepared in the cold by incorporating finely powdered cork with very thin slices of soap, the whole being afterwards submitted to the same manipulations as usually happens with a toilet soap. The cork soap may also be prepared in the hot way. In this case the finely divided cork is made into a paste with water, which is mixed with the soap. Cork soap may also be made by introducing a piece of cork into a cake of soap before it has set by means of a special instrument. The cake is then stamped in the ordinary way.

Ferrichthol is the commercial name given to ichthyol-sulphonate of iron. As placed on the market by the Ichthyol-Gesellschaft, of Hamburg, it contains 3.5 per cent. of iron, organically combined, and 96.5 per cent. of ichthyol-sulphonic acid. It is nearly odorless and tasteless, and is used for anæmia and chlorosis, in the form of tablets containing 0.1 Gm. (about $1\frac{1}{2}$ grain) each.—*Ph. Era.*