Practical Formulæ.

To Cut and Bore India-Rubber Corks.—W. F. Donkin.—Dip the knife or cork-borer in solution of caustic potash or soda. The strength is of very little consequence, but it should not be weaker than the ordinary reagent solution. Alcohol is generally recommended, and it works well until it evaporates, which is generally long before the cork is cut or bored through, and more has to be applied; water acts just as well as alcohol, and lasts longer. When, however, a tolerably sharpened knife is moistened with soda-lye, it goes through India-rubber quite as easily as through common cork; and the same may be said of a cork-borer of whatever size. I have frequently bored inch holes in large caoutchouc stoppers, perfectly smooth and cylindrical, by this method. In order to finish the hole without the usual contraction of its diameter, the stopper should be held firmly against a flat surface of common cork till the borer passes into the latter.—*Chem. News, Lond., Aug.* 30, 1872. *in Am. Jour. Pharm.*

Cement to resist moisture and heat. Dissolve caseine in cold saturated solution of borax, and with this solution paste strips of hog's or bullock's bladder (softened in water) on the craks of glass, and dry at a gentle heat, if the vessel is to be heated coat the bladder on the outside, before it has become quite dry, with a paste of solution of silicate of soda and quick-lime or plaster-of Paris.—*Sci. Amer., Oct,* 19, 1872. *in Am. Jour. Pharm.*

Artificial Ivory.—William M. Welling's patent for the manufacture of artificial ivory, has lately been extended by the Commissioner of Patents for seven years. The article is composed of 10 ounces of white shellac, 4½ ounces of acetate of lead, 8 ounces of ivory dust, and 5 ounces of camphor. The ingredients are reduced to powder, heated, and mixed; then pressed in heated moulds into sheets or other desired forms.—*American Chemist.*

Furniture Polish.—Scrape one pound of beeswax into shavings in a pan; add half a gallon spirits turpentine, and one pint linseed oil. Let it remain twelve hours, then stir it well with a stick, into a liquid; while stirring, add one quarter pound shellac varnish and one ounce alkanet root. Put this mixture into a gallon jar, and stand it before the fire, or in an oven, for a week (to keep it just warm), shake it up three or four times a day. Then strain it through a hair sieve and bottle it. Pour about a teaspoonful on a wad of