

SELECTIONS.

Choral for Dandruff.—A solution of choral hydrate, five grains to the ounce of water, will clear the hair of dandruff, and prevent its falling out from that cause. In many instances where the patient is nearly bald, the application of the above mentioned solution will restore the hair. Arnica oil is also an admirable remedy to promote the growth of hair. A small quantity well rubbed into the scalp three or four times a week, can be tried with expectations of benefit.—Clinical Reporter.

Salicylate of Soda and Antipyrin.—Following up the experiments of Prudhomme, the results of which were communicated to the Paris Society of Pharmacy, Vigur states that a solution of antipyrin and sodium salicylate does not undergo change, and can be preserved indefinitely. On the other hand, if mixed in powder an oily body is formed, which stains the paper. Whether the antipyrin used is crystalline or amorphous the result is the same. In three hours one per cent. of the oily body separates, and it is therefore advisable always to prescribe the substances in solution.

Marking-ink Pencils.—In one of the patents applied for by Mr. J. Hickisson it is stated that Congo and benzo-purpurine are used in the manufacture of marking material. The coloring-matter is made up into a plastic mass by admixture with suitable binders, such as albumen, borax, kaolin, and gum tragacanth. The mixture is moulded into sticks, which are embedded in wood or fitted in a holder. The mordants used may be in a solution or made up into tablets to be rubbed on the material. A mixture of two or more of the following compounds may be employed as the mordant:—Pyrogallie acid, sodium aluminate, arsenate, carbonate, chloride, etc., sulphates of iron and copper, alum, borax, tannic acid, etc.

Pure Soluble Prussian Blue is prepared by digesting an excess of Prussian blue paste with a saturated solution of oxalic acid, and filtering. The filtrate, after standing for two months, deposits the pure blue, the liquid itself becoming colorless. The color is washed with weak alcohol and dried. It now dissolves readily in pure water. The same result is obtained more rapidly by precipitating the oxalic acid solution with 95 per cent. alcohol, or a concentrated solution of sulphate of soda, and washing the color with alcohol. Tartrate or oxalate of ammonium can take the place of the oxalic acid in the above reactions. On boiling the oxalic acid solutions, ordinary insoluble blue is precipitated.

Mr. H. N. Warren makes a useful suggestion in the Chemical News regarding the use of magnesium. Both on account of its purity and the speed with which it facilitates

reduction, it ranks high among reducing agents. Thus, on account of its freedom from arsenic, no agent is better suited than magnesium for Marsh's test. Its freedom from iron renders it one of the safest reagents for the reduction of ferric salts previous to titration. The speed of reduction is about three times that of zinc, and the absence of both phosphorus and sulphur may also be relied upon. It also possesses other virtues which suggest its freer use in laboratories, especially since it has become so cheap.

The manager of a theatrical company tells a story of his first Sunday in Pittsburg, where the Sunday observance law is strictly enforced. He and a few other members of the company left the hotel on a quest for cigarettes. They visited one cigar store after the other, and glared savagely at the drawn blinds. Weary with searching, they chafed to fall in with a young doctor whom the manager knew. "I'll fix you," the medico said, and led them to a well-known drug store. There all begging by the theatrical gentlemen was in vain, but the doctor drew out his prescription book. He wrote upon it a lot of Latin, which, being translated by the drug clerk, thus resulted:—"320 grams of leaf tobacco, in 1 ounce packages. Take three times daily, as directed." The cigarettes were handed out amid mutual smiles.

The following simple and practical method for coating pills with sugar is described in the Pharm. Post:—The dry pills are placed in a porcelain dish and moistened with a trace of syrup; they are then poured on sugar-powder, which has been spread all over a sheet of paper. With a dry, carefully cleaned hand the pills are rolled about until they seem all covered with sugar; they are then placed on a fine sieve to remove the surplus of sugar-powder and dried without heating. It is usually sufficient to follow this process once; should a thicker coating be desirable, the pills undergo the same process two or three times. The pills are not quite so smooth and shiny as those obtained from the manufacturer, but still their appearance is very satisfactory, and they have the advantage that they are ready at a moment's notice.

Practical Process for the Emulsification of Vaseline and Water.—Mr. V. Krebs, pharmacist, Brussels, in the Journal de Pharmacologie, states with reference to the mixture of water and vaselin being absolutely incompatible, that he stumbled by accident on a solution of this question by the addition of castor oil to the mixture, in preparing ointments composed of vaselin and an aqueous liquid. He claims to have obtained excellent results. Two drops of castor oil added to one gram of the liquid are sufficient to yield a product of perfect homogeneity. The only disadvantage of vaselin not being miscible with aqueous liquids, being thus re-

moved, its employment will become more general, especially in the preparation of ointments containing iodide of potassium and similar substances, the decomposition of which is readily developed when mixed with other fatty substances than vaselin.

DISPENSING SOLUTIONS.—A writer in the Pharl. Record protests against the use of measure and rod for aiding the solution of solids in liquids, and advises his brother pharmacists to send out bright, clear fluids when solutions are called for, free from all sediment or flocculent matter, and says this can be readily attained by judicious use of heat and filter paper. Avoid the use of the mortar in making solutions when possible. Have some chemical flasks at hand, ready for use in making solutions, funnels and filter-paper, and never be afraid to use them, so that your solutions are tempting by their clearness rather than repulsive because of the flocculent and sedimentary matter that ought not to have been present. We print this more as a caution than anything else. Dispensers should be very chary about using heat for making solutions, or filtering-paper to clear them. Keep "The Art of Dispensing" aphorism always in mind "Avoid effecting solution by heat, for fear of recrystallisation."

A simple cure for neuralgia was recently communicated to the Edinburgh Medico-Chirurgical Society by Dr. George Leslie, F.R.S.E., of Falkirk. It consists in snuffing or blowing a little powdered common salt up the nose through the anterior nares. Dr. Leslie gave details of thirty or forty cases of facial and other neuralgia, cephalalgia, odontalgia, etc., which had been cured, and he stated that he had only failed in two cases. Dr. Leslie's explanation is that the stimulation by chloride of sodium appears to induce in the nasal branches of the fifth nerve a form of nerve motion, which causes reflex inhibition of the pathological process in the nerves affected, inhibits the abnormal form of nerve energy, of which the expression is pain, and replaces it by the normal form, of which the expression is not pain. The mode of disappearance of the neuralgia is noteworthy. So unattended is it by any form of shock or other unpleasantness, that though the patient may be suffering from intense pain one minute, and be absolutely free from it the next, it is generally somewhat longer before he can realise his altered condition, and he usually employs a short time in introspection before announcing the favorable results. Four grains of powdered salt is the quantity generally used.

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