

longer admitted into the house for the treatment of the itch, as two hours suffice to render contagion impossible and the recovery almost certain. The patient is put into a warm bath, and rubbed for an hour with yellow soap; he then passes into a clean bath, where he continues to cleanse his skin for another hour. After leaving this bath he is taken to a particular room fitted for the purpose, and, with the aid of one of his fellow-sufferers, he is rubbed all over for half an hour with the following ointment:—Axunge eight parts, flowers of sulphur two parts, carbonate of potash one part. After this friction, the patient is examined and sent away cured, though sometimes pretty numerous vesicles on the hands and elsewhere remain unaltered. Dr. Hardy states that out of one hundred cases he has hardly had two or three relapses. The number of itch patients has considerably diminished, as none are now turned away for want of room; and the disease has thus spread with much less rapidity.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE.

IODINE RENDERED SOLUBLE BY SYRUP OF ORANGE-PEEL AND TANNIN.

M. Debauque mentions, in the *Journal de Pharmacie* of Antwerp, that he has found means of keeping iodine in a state of solution, when added to mixtures in the form of tincture. The author uses, for that purpose, syrup of orange-peel, which answers the purpose perfectly. It was suspected that tannin was mainly instrumental in this result; and this was rendered evident by putting a few grains of tannin into a quantity of water to which tincture of iodine had been added, and in which the iodine had of course been precipitated. The addition of the tannin caused the iodine to be immediately re-dissolved. Thus will the syrup of orange-peel be advantageously added to mixtures containing tincture of iodine, and tannin, to injections composed of water and the same tincture.

A SIMPLE PROCESS FOR PRECIPITATING THE COTTON CONTAINED IN COLLODION.

By Thomas Cattell, M.D., M.R.C.S. Eng.

A short time since, I ascertained that on mixing bisulphuret of carbon with collodion, an immediate precipitation or separation of the cotton takes place, leaving a limpid fluid consisting only of the solvent and precipitant.

The cotton presents the same fibrous appearance as though it had not been in a previous state of solution, and as gun-cotton would do if simply immersed in water. When dried (as much moisture as possible being first pressed out between folds of linen or bibulous paper) it cannot be distinguished from the dried pulp of the paper-maker.

This singular reaction of the bisulphuret on the collodion, would lead to the supposition that the gun-cotton performs the part of a base to the oxyde of ethyl (ether), for this substance is at once deprived of the peculiar properties which it possessed previous to solution.

It may serve also to explain more clearly the chemical composition of lignine, as acted on by nitric or nitric-sulphuric acid.