

antiseptic, disinfectant and germicide known ; it acts by coagulating protoplasm, the cell-contents of all organisms.

To delay the setting of plaster of Paris, use a little vinegar ; borax will also retard its setting. Sugar, salt and sulphate of potass. will materially hasten the setting, as well as harden it ; marsh mallow toughens it. Marble dust, mixed with plaster, prevents its expansion, makes it stronger and better able to withstand heavy pressure, especially good for celluloid work.

The sapphire, ruby, oriental topaz, are all mere colored varieties of the mineral substance so well known to dentists as corundum, a pure crystallized alumina, the oxide of the well known metal, aluminum

Hydrochloric acid has no effect on mercury ; sulphuric acid must be heated to effect it much ; nitric acid acts on it lightly ; by taking advantage of this, mercury can be purified easily from lead and many other base metals or impurities with which it is often mixed. Using one part acid to eight parts water, heated to 140 F., will not attack the mercury, and is sufficiently strong to eat up the baser metals the mercury may contain. Another way to purify mercury is to shake it well in pulverized sugar, then filter through a paper cone by making pin holes in the bottom of it. The mercury will filter through leaving the sugar in the paper.

Few probably know the reason why the nine noble metals get their name. When being heated they give up their oxygen, while the base metals do not ; this makes the difference between a base metal and a noble metal.

The advancement of dentistry during the past century cannot be equalled by any other department of science.

Slip a rubber tip, such as is used on the little glass drop tubes, over point or face of your small rivetting hammer, tie it fast with a piece of wire twisted round ; you can hammer away at a plaster model without defacing it, when fitting in an air chamber-pattern or any piece of gold, or other metal, to the model.

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