

stances for making dresses incombustible. He found that a 5-per-cent solution of ammonium phosphate accomplished this purpose.

ONE FOR THE DOCTORS.—The following *bon-mot* is of French origin. A lady in delicate health asks a cynical friend whether she shall consult an allopathic or homœopathic practitioner. "It matters but little," is the reply. "The first will kill you, the second will let you die."

HOMŒOPATHIC TREATMENT OF TAPE-WORM.—Every one is acquainted with the fact that a snake is charmed by the sound of soft music; but it remained for a German homœopath to discover that the tape-worm is susceptible of the same influence. So, at least, we are informed by our contemporary, the *Vienna Medical Press*. The inferior orifice of the patient's intestinal canal is placed in communication with a musical box, which is set a-playing. "We have not long to wait," the homœopathic doctor naively remarks. The tape-worm quickly makes his appearance head foremost, and winds himself along the connecting link toward the instrument. The latter is soon embraced in its turn, and the cure complete, for the parasite has, so to say, abstracted himself.—*Medical Examiner*.

CROTON OIL PENCILS.—For the local application of croton oil, M. Limousin recommends (*Répert de Pharm.*, 1877) the use of pencils made according to the following formula:—Two parts of croton oil are added to one of cacao butter and one of white wax, melted over the water-bath. When the mixture begins to cool, it is poured into cylindrical moulds, in which it soon solidifies. Although the pencil only contains 50 per cent. of oil, yet, owing to the avoidance of all loss through volatilisation, the revulsive action of the drug is found to be even more powerful in this form than in its natural condition, and it has been successfully employed with the view of obtaining this action by Dr. Jules Simon, at the Hôpitals des Enfants Malades. Dr. Failler has used these pencils in the treatment of tinea tonsurans. The pencils retain their properties for several months.

Shampoo Lather.—Cut 2 lbs. best oil-soap into dice; place them in an earthen pot with water and a little crystallized soda. Boil over a slow fire. After skimming, the soapy mass may be perfumed and colored to suit the ideas and taste of those concerned.—*The Perfumer's and Hairdresser's Gazette*.

FATAL EXPLOSION OF AN OXYGEN RETORT.—On Oct. 16 Mr. Edward John Wrench, son of Mr. Wrench, the well-known optician, of Holborn, was engaged in making oxygen at his residence, in 39 Gray's Inn Road, when the retort exploded, smashing the fire-grate, blowing the windows out of the sashes, and filling the rooms with dense smoke. Mr. Wrench was fearfully injured; he had sustained a cut 6 inches long in the chest, which exposed the

lungs, and a jagged wound on the left side of the neck, exposing the muscles and veins. Mr. Reginald Taylor, surgeon, was called in, but the sufferer died within half-an-hour from collapse and hemorrhage. Mrs. Elizabeth Gibson was also fearfully burned about the face. The details given in the public reports do not account for the explosion. It does not, however, stand alone. At least two other fatal explosions have occurred, within recent years, during the manufacture of oxygen. In both of these binoxide of manganese was used as the source of the gas, and it was afterwards discovered that the oxide was adulterated in one case with soot and in the other with antimony sulphide. These mixtures are as dangerous as gunpowder when placed under the conditions required for the manufacture of oxygen, and it is always wise to test beforehand the material about to be used.

INCOMPATIBILITY OF CALOMEL WITH CERTAIN BROMIDES.—Mr. Norman A. Kuhn has studied the action of calomel with the bromides of potassium, sodium, ammonium, and zinc, and finds that a portion of the calomel is converted into a soluble mercuric salt, a considerable portion of the calomel, under some circumstances, being thus changed. This new-formed salt is poisonous, a kitten having been killed by some of it in the course of an hour and a half.

"A SHORT CUT TO THE TINCTURES OF THE BRITISH PHARMACOPŒIA."—By Henry Judd. A mnemonic, showing how an accurate knowledge of the proportion, preparation, time, dose, &c., of the sixty-eight tinctures may be easily and permanently remembered in two hours. London: Printed for the Author. Price one shilling. We can add nothing to the title; the mnemonic for tinct. cinchonæ co. is a sample of the treatment the tinctures undergo:—

Six ingredients, you must know,
Make the tinct. cinchonæ co.;
Serpentary, bark, and peel,
Spirit, saffron, cochineal.

"All rights are reserved," so that we must "quote no more."—(*Chemist and Druggist*.)

A very curious case is reported from Spalding. A firm of chemists being summoned for not fully entering into the "Poison-book" a sale of vermin-killer, the date of sale (it was alleged) having been omitted, the solicitor for the defence contended with much skillful argument that the chemists were not required to produce their books. The law, he said, required them to make the entry, but they might destroy the same the next minute if they so pleased. The magistrates were evidently fogged, and they consequently faced both ways—over-ruling the solicitor's objections, but dismissing the summons.—*Chemist and Druggist*.

ENGLISH PATENT WASHING CRYSTALS.—Six parts soluble glass, 29 parts anhydrous washing soda, 60 parts bicarbonate of soda, 5 parts water.—*Hager*.

The capital of Turkey is like a whimsical patient, because it's constant-to-no-pill.—*Ec.*