

deposited from a bath of silicate of soda or potash, followed by chloride of calcium.

For alcoholic liquids, as well as many others, glue, or a mixture of glue and sulphur, or glue rendered insoluble by potassium bichromate, might be tried. If a paper cone, such as grocers use, be dipped into glue and allowed to dry, it will hold strong alcohol for quite a length of time. I do not mention this fact as indicating the use of paper parcels for carrying alcohol, but merely as showing the impermeability of the glue coating.

The waterproofing composition used by the Chinese consists of a mixture of three parts of blood from which the fibrine has been separated, four parts of lime, and a little alum. Straw baskets are rendered waterproof by this mixture, and paper is made impervious, and at the same time much harder and stronger.

I think that the suggestions I have made are capable of being worked up into practical shape, and I should at any rate be glad to hear them discussed.

TORONTO, April 10, 1877.

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### FRACTIONAL NOTES.\*

*Pill Excipients*—*Sulphate of iron* gives always more or less trouble in the formation of a good pill mass, which trouble a little glycerin does away with; for instance, the following often prescribed formula: Extr. nuc. vomic. gr. x, ferri sulphat. gr. xx. quiniæ sulph. gr. xl, gives with glycerin gtt. v—vi. an unexceptionable pill mass. (Maisch.)—The well-known Blaud's pills (sulphate of iron and carbon. of potassa) are best made with powdered tragacanth and simple syrup: For instance, ferri sulph. 1 drachm, potass. carb. 1 drachm, give a good pill mass with pulv. tragac.  $\frac{1}{2}$  drachm and syrup. simpl. gtt. v—vi (Maisch.)—Where these latter pills are often prescribed, it becomes easier to keep a pill mass on hand. Rub together 15 parts each of sulphate of iron and carbonate of potassa, add 3 parts sugar; a somewhat soft mass results, the protocarbonate of iron of which is perfectly preserved by the sugar. For every 30 parts prescribed (*i. e.*, of each 15 parts) take 33 parts of said mass and add about 6 parts powdered marsh-mallow root.—*Pil. coloc. comp.* Add to 100 parts from 6-7 parts water and beat well.—*Creasote pills.* For 1 drop of creasote take 4 grains of powd. soap, 3

\*From the Druggists' Circular.