

A mixture of tobacco, the odor changing in two days to one like benzoic acid. When heated, this residuo gave off an odor resembling burnt india-rubber. One of these samples came from a British firm, and appears to have been by far the best of them all, thirty-nine cubic centimetres leaving only a residuo weighing .0001 gramme, and having a transitory smell of malic ether; whereas forty-nine cubic centimetres of one of the German specimens left a residuo weighing .0022 gramme, and of a peculiarly offensive character. Professor Mentum's investigations would seem to offer some explanation of the extreme care taken by some of our continental brethren in regard to the use of chloroform. If much of what is used is as impure as some of the specimens referred to, it is scarcely to be wondered at that the results are sometimes disastrous. The specimen, which was the immediate cause of the investigation, is stated to have produced in no less than half of the patients such dangerous symptoms that its administration had to be discontinued. To all appearances, however, it was perfectly good, having a specific gravity of 1.487, neutral reaction, containing no free chlorine, and not undergoing any change of colour when mixed with hot sulphuric acid and left to stand for twenty-four hours. The sequel, of course, shows that these preliminary tests are very insufficient.—[Lancet.

PERMANGANATE OF POTASSIUM PILLS.

Two correspondents have recently called the attention of the Pharmaceutical Journal and Transactions to the value of lanolin as an excipient in making pills of potassium permanganate. Ernest W. Gough says, in this respect: "As far as appearance goes the pills turned out all that could be desired. I kept a dozen to see if any change took place, and, as far as I can see, none has occurred. The pills were varnished with sandarac and alcohol varnish (Martindale). I have not seen any note about lanolin being used before for this purpose.

"Perhaps some of your readers will be able to say whether any decomposition is likely to occur if kept any length of time. The total weight of the mass was twenty-nine grains, the formula used being—

"Potassium permanganate, gr. xxiv
"Kaolin, gr. ii,
"Lanolin, q.s.

"The pills, I may say, are comparatively hard, and retain their shape perfectly."

J. H. Miller hit upon the same combination, and wrote a communication to the same journal, from which we extract as follows:

"As the pills I have massed with lanolin have only been made a comparatively short time, it remains to be seen whether the new method is equal to kaolin and soft paraffin in preventing decomposition, but they are still, as you will see, in very good condition. As an excipient, it is simplicity itself, and exceedingly easy to work, ordinary anhydrous lanolin, in the proportion of 1 to 10 of permanganate, turns out a beautiful, perfect pill, only half the size of those made by the old method, and without any trouble."—[National Druggist.

DISPENSING NOTES

ANTIPYRIN AND IODINE.

When iodine in dilute solution is added to solution of antipyrin drop by drop, and the mixture shaken, the precipitate formed at first disappears, leaving the liquid colourless until a certain quantity has been added, when the precipitate remains permanently. According to M. Manseau (Bull. Soc. Pharm. Bord. May, p. 148), this point is reached with Knorr's antipyrin when decinormal solution of iodine has been added in the proportion of 6.8 c. c. (equal 0.0863 gram iodine) to the gram. Almost identical results were obtained with analgesine of French manufacture from different sources; but one sample of "foreign origin," inferior in appearance and less soluble in water, only absorbed 0.07241 gram of iodine to the gram before the precipitate became persistent. M. Manseau therefore suggests that this reaction affords to the pharmacist a ready means of testing the quality of the substance supplied to him under the name "antipyrin" or "analgesine." The reactions with chlorine and bromine are exactly of the same order and quite as distinct, but the titration solutions are not so easily preserved of uniform strength. The reaction is said also to constitute a delicate test for the presence of antipyrin in urine, the transient character of the precipitate distinguishing it from the precipitate due to iodine compounds with alkaloids, and the formation of an abundant dull red precipitate, when the iodine solution is added in the presence of nitric acid, distinguishing it from the turbidity characteristic of ferments.—[Pharm. Jour. and Trans.

When you receive a prescription for suppositories, and do not happen to have a set of moulds suitable for their preparation, you can substitute rubber nipples—those that are used for the top of nursing bottles with advantage. Have holes cut in a piece of card-board or tin to hold the nipples, place the holder and nipples in a vessel of ice-water, and proceed as with ordinary moulds. When cold the suppositories turn out without any trouble.—[Ind. Phar.

At the dispensing counter make it a rule to note down on the prescription whatever addition you find it necessary to make, for the guidance of yourself or assistants in case of repetition. Also note down the order of mixing, since a slight difference in this respect may cause an entirely different looking mixture.

Although the Pharmacopœia does not mention the fact, we may state that every ten gallons of water to be distilled should have added to it a drachm of permanganate

of potash and one half ounce of sulphuric acid. This fixes the ammonia and keeps it back, and also destroys nitrates and organic nitrogen. The water distilled from this mixture does not become rosy.

Filter papers may be toughened and thus made much more durable and safe. Immerse ordinary filter paper in nitric acid, and then wash well with water. A remarkably tough paper results, which can be washed like linen, and which is quite pervious to liquids. Or the papers may be folded and only the apex treated with acid and water.

Liquids difficult of clear filtration may be readily filtered by beating a small quantity of filter paper into pulp with the liquid, and then running the mixture into a funnel, the stem of which has been previously plugged with cotton wool.

A little washed kaolin agitated with some viscous liquid, such as popsin wine, materially accelerates filtration.

Heavy oils and syrups are easily filtered by the following method: "Take a piece of damp flannel and sprinkle one side liberally with French chalk; over this place another piece of damp flannel, and dry. It is then ready for use and is said to do its work admirably.

Holes may be drilled in glass by a good steel drill wetted with a saturated solution of camphor in oil of turpentine.

Lycopodium sprinkled on oiled silk prevents the fabric from adhering.

To prevent stoppers from sticking in liquor potassa bottles, rub a little vaseline on them. This is infallible.

To powder boracic acid, first warm a Wedgewood mortar by burning in it a little alcohol; then rub the boracic with a few drops of glycerine, when it will be easily reduced to a very fine powder.

To remove iodoform from mortars, wash the mortar with soap and water when greasy, then pour in a little alcohol, light it, and stir around with the pestle. This removes all trace of iodoform.

Turbid olive oil and other fixed oils, which have acquired this condition by admixture with moisture may be cleared by shaking up with a little dry starch; allow to settle, and decant. The starch absorbs the moisture.

Paper labels may be removed from bottles by wetting the surface and holding for a minute over any convenient flame. The heat and water combined soften the mucilage or paste, so removal is simple.

The Standard Show Case Co., of Windsor, Ont., report a steady increase in sales. Write to them for prices when requiring anything in their line.