

the papers of Australia. It is called by the natives pitcherine, and is used as we use tobacco, for both smoking and chewing. The effect is that of pleasant exhilaration; when long continued, intense, and continuous excitement follows. It is used, when, on long foot-journeys, to invigorate and keep up the strength or excite them to courage in battle; large doses are said to infuriate all the passions. Some of the natives make a plaster of this plant, and place it back of the ears, believing they are influenced by it.

ON CERTAIN DISINFECTANTS.—Mr. G. B. Longstaff, M.A., M.B. Oxon, and Mr. E. H. Hare, M.A. Oxon, M.R.C.S., report in the *Sanitary Record* a series of experiments made by them with a number of popular disinfectants. They took a quantity of urine, diluted it with water, and measured 100 cubic centimetres into each of 34 jam pots. They then added to each part the one-thousandth part of its weight of a disinfectant, making each experiment in duplicate. In two cases they added water only. The results were as follows:—

Antiseptic, 0.1 per cent.	Day on which mould appeared.		Day on which putrefactive odour was distinct.	
	I.	II.	I.	II.
Water only.....	9	9	14	13
Terebene (Dr. Bond's)....	10	10	13	18-23 ? *
Carbolic Acid (Calvert's No. 5).....	None by	75th day	None by	75th day
Burnett's Fluid.....	9	9	12	12
Condy's Red Fluid.....	10	10	15	10
Turpentine.....	13	14	18-23 ?	18-23 ? *
Chloralum.....	8	8	10	11
Borax.....	8	9	18-23 ?	18-23 ? *
Cupralum (Dr. Bond's)....	8	8	12	12
Ferralum (Dr. Bond's)....	None by	14th day	8	8
Sodium Salicylate.....	10	10	14	14
Sanitas (Aromatic, No. 3).....	8	9	9	10
Sanitas (Inodorous, No. 3).....	9	9	15	11
McDougall's Fluid.....	12	9	13	12
Sanitas (Aromatic, No. 1).....	9	9	14	14
Sanitas (Inodorous, No. 1).....	9	8	15	11

* Some uncertainty as to exact day, owing to absence from home.

—*Chemist and Druggist.*

THE TELEPHONE.—One of the most interesting and valuable applications of Professor Bell's telephone in the United States was seen in a recent railway disaster near Hartford, Connecticut. An excursion train, returning from one of Moody and Sankey's revival meetings, plunged through a bridge, killing some and wounding many other passengers. Brought by telegraph wires to Hartford, the news was taken up by a system of telephone wires connecting a chemist's shop with the residence of twenty-one physicians; and so prompt was the summons that in half an hour the physicians, fully equipped, were at the railway station, from which they were rapidly conveyed to the scene of death and suffering. Thirteen thousand telephones are said to be in operation in the United States.

THE TAPEWORM.—In a recent German publication we are told that black oxide of copper is the surest and best cure for tapeworms. It is given in pills made according to the following formula:—

	Grammes.
Cupri oxydati nigri.....	6
Calcarie carbonicæ.....	2
Boli albi lævigatæ.....	12
Glycerin.....	10

Make 120 pills. Take 2 four times daily.

It is said to have this disadvantage, that the patient is denied the pleasure of exhibiting his tormentor.—*Chemist and Druggist.*

SALICYLIC ACID AS AN ANAPHRODISIAC.—This fact was asserted not long ago by Dr. C. T. Jewitt, and has had recent confirmation in the case of a New York city veterinary surgeon, whose patient had been taking soda salicylate for some time. Damiana restored the sexual appetite promptly.

CORK WOOD.—Australia gives us another valuable medicine, namely, the leaves of the cork wood (*Duboisia myoporoides*), from which an extract is yielded having similar (though more speedy) action to belladonna.—*Chemist and Druggist.*

OZOKERINE.—This is a smooth yellowish substance prepared from earth wax, and resembling some of the paraffines in appearance. It appears bland and non-irritating, and likely to prove useful as a dressing for wounds and excoriations.—*Cincinnati Lancet and Clinic.*

INVISIBLE INK FOR POSTALS.—John H. Nelson gives in his "Hand-Book of Formulæ" the following:—

- Oxide of Cobalt, ½ ounce.
- Muriatic Acid, sufficient to dissolve it.
- Water, 4 ounces.
- Mucilage of Gum Acacia, . . . 1 drachm.

Characters written on paper with this solution are invisible, but on the application of heat they instantly appear in blue; on cooling they become invisible again.—*Phil. Druggist and Chemist.*

PHOSPHORUS IN SCIATICA.—Dr. Volquardsen, in a Pesth medical journal quoted by the *London Medical Record*, reports a case of sciatica which lasted for two years and defied all treatment. He then arrived at the idea of trying the internal use of phosphorus, which he prescribed in doses of 15 milligrammes (about one-fourth of a grain) three times a day. Three days sufficed to obtain a marked improvement, and three weeks brought a complete cure.

MEDICINAL EFFECTS OF ONIONS.—Dr. G. W. Balfour, in the *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, records three cases in which much benefit was afforded patients by the eating of raw onions in large quantities. They acted as a diuretic in each instance. Case first was a woman who had suffered from a large white kidney and constriction of