be too weak to respond to the remedy. So far, most of these results have been obtained with Schering's antitoxin, but the demand has far exceeded the supply. Hence the British Institute of Preventive Medicine has determined to undertake the preparation of the antitoxine, and the Chairman of the Council, Sir Joseph Lister, has appealed for funds for the purpose. The curious part of the programme is the apparent anxiety of the Institute to offer the remedy free of cost. This will certainly knock foreign competitors out of the field, but one can hardly see why the line should be drawn at free antitoxine. Why not free Epsom salts? At the same time I may mention the disinterested practice of Professor McFadyean, of the Royal Veterinary College, who has for some time past been preparing "mallein" for members of the veterinary profession, free of charge. As your readers are probably aware mallein is almost a certain diagnostic reagent for the detection of glanders. The comparative rareness of glanders, owing to the vigilance of the authorities in stamping out the disease by slaughtering animals found suffering from it, prevents any great demand upon Dr. McFadyean's liberal offer.

The Research Laboratory of the Pharmaceutical Society has been singularly quiet during the early part of the winter season. It was fully expected that before this the aconite work would have advanced another stage, and pharmacists have been awaiting the results of the croton oil investigation. The fact is that owing to the removal of the demonstrator, who has accepted an appointment in the laboratory of a provincial firm of druggists, only juniors are left working at the aconite question. The new demonstrator and another senior are busy with paraffinic aldoximes, concerning the utility of which there are no two opinions in the pharmaceutical world. The late demonstrator, Mr. Harrison, was to have continued his work on the Japanese aconite, but an examination at the London University has intervened. The winter session, so far, has been devoid of any startling discoveries. At the first meeting of the Society of Chemical Industry a graceful and eloquent tribute was paid by the president, Dr. Thorpe, F. R. S., to the memory of the late Dr. Alder Wright. His description of Dr. Wright as not a "benzological" man was particularly happy, for he was essentially an all-round chemist. In fact, there was no other British chemist that could compare with the versatility of Wright. His investigations covered every field of chemistry from essential oils to alloys. The Chemical Society has continued its prosaic meetings, unenlivened by a single paper of pharmaceutic interest. The Pharmaceutical Society has had to draw upon the resources of its botanical professor for a lecture upon the nervous system in plants, a subject which can hardly be considered of wide-spread interest. The junior and provincial associations are producing their usual papers, many of which are of value and importance, but give rise to but languid attention. If that precious Imperial Pharmacopœia is not soon placed on the stocks, British pharmacists will stand a chance of being accused of suffering from cerebral anæmia.

The use of glycero-phosphates in medicine is increasing. The acid itself is a yellow oily liquid of strong acidulous taste, by no means unpleasant. But the calcium salt, having the formula, $Ca\ C_3\ H_7\ PO_6$, is more often employed and has been used in neurasthenia with considerable success. The calcium glycero-phosphate has been administered by subcutaneous injection in doses 4 grains daily. The injections produce no unpleasant symptoms and the results in the opinion of several observers are similar to those obtained with testicular fluid. In sciatica, ataxia and neuralgia, injections in the neighborhood of the painful nerve have produced wonderful results. Internal administration results in improvement of the nervous system, but larger doses are required and relief is not so speedy as in the case of injections. Glycero-phosphates of sodium, potassium, lithium, etc., are prepared in addition to the calcium salt.

Messrs. Mawson, Swan and Weddell, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, have patented a nutritive table salt and registered it under the title of "Cerebos." It is a combination of ordinary table salt with the bran, phosphates, etc., which under modern methods of treating wheat in flour-making, are removed. The superiority of brown bread or whole meal bread as a dietetic preparation over the ordinary white loaf is widely recognized by the medical profession. Many persons object, however, to the coarse fare and for these people Cerebos will be a useful boon. Employed as ordinary table salt it is a distinct aid to digestion and the proper peristaltic action of the bowels, whilst for the dietary of ricketty and scrofulous children it is an absolute necessity. The firm also produce a cerebos baking powder containing a considerable proportion of the cerebos bran phosphates, which is easily and satisfactorily employed in making bread, cakes and puddings. These articles are put up in twelve and 24 cent tins and retailed largely by chemists and grocers.

The recent announcement in the *Chemist and Druggist* of the true facts concerning the extraordinary "find" of ambergris, reads more like a romance than prosaic truth. This lump is certified to have weighed 1½ cwt., and contained an inner core, weighing no less than 84 ozs., which consisted of the finest grey ambergris. It speaks volumes for the management of the wholesale druggists who had charge of this enormous consignment, that they were able to dispose of the whole in three years without depressing the market price. From the very first the story of the "find" was received with incredulity and then when nothing further was heard of it, the story was regarded as a myth. The brokers, as usual, had all sorts of fairy tales on the subject. One would declare that it was absolutely untrue, whilst another would vouch for the authenticity by pretending to have some of it for sale. During the three years, the lump was kept in the strong room of an Australian bank in London, insured for £10,000, and only two or three persons ever saw it. It is rather a pity that this necessity for secrecy prevented a photograph being taken, as another lump of anything like the same size will never, in all probability, be found. It is over 200 years ago since such a thing occurred and the scarcity of the sperm whale is yearly becoming greater.

Medicaments Derived from Coal Tar.

As a consequence of the progress made in the manufacture of coloring materials from coal tar, physiologists and physicians have been able to experiment with a host of new products, some of which have found a place as therapeutic or antiseptic agents. The substances submitted to such experiments are of very diverse nature, but there is observed in them, nevertheless, a limited number of characteristic groupings. They are phenols, acetylated amines and sulphonated, sulphuretted, iodated and chlorated derivatives of the aldehydes. Methodical experiments have not been numerous enough, and the data furnished by biological chemistry are not precise enough to allow us to establish any relation between the constitution of these bodies and their physiological properties, provided any exists. Their applications, in fact, exhibit many anomalies. We see products that are very different as to constitution act upon the organism in a similar manner, and substances that are analogous, from a chemical point of view, produce very different therapeutical effects. With the information that we possess upon this subject it is hazardous to draw absolute conclusions.

The number of organic bodies proposed as antiseptic or as medicinal products is very large, and one or more new medicaments are observed to make their appearance every day. We can mention but a limited number here, in selecting the most important of them.

We have arranged these substances as antithermics and analgesics, and hypnotics and antiseptics. There is nothing absolute about this classification. A large number of these products has at the same time several of these properties. For example, chloral, which we place among the hypnotics, is an analgesic, and is even employed as an antiseptic, and asprol is at the same time an antiseptic and an analgesic.

1. *Antithermics and Analgesics.* — Of all the artificial antithermics, *antipyrine or analgesine* is the most widely used up to the present. It is derived from phenylhydrazine, which is itself obtained by dinitrating aniline, and in reducing the dinitro-benzol thus obtained. This phenylhydrazine is afterwards condensed with