

## Varieties.

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**OINTMENT FOR BURNS.**—Dr. Bedford Brown, in an article on burns, recommends the following treatment to allay pain and promote the process of healing: Take iodoform, 2 dr.; Spermaceti ointment, 1 oz.; Extract of conium, 1½ dr.; Carbolic acid, 10 drops. This, spread on fine linen, is applied twice daily to the inflamed surface, and then enveloped in oiled silk, no other dressing being required. In cases where there is a great dryness of surface from destruction of vitality and want of exhalation, the wound, before applying the ointment, should be coated with the common linimentum calcis, which affords a soft and moist dressing, and in no wise interferes with the action of the iodoform. The iodoform acts as a certain and most effective sedative on the painful and exposed surface, and at the same time as an antiseptic. It reduces inflammation and suppuration, when in excess, in a remarkable manner, promptly converting a most painful and irritable wound into one that is comparatively painless. It is also an excellent promoter of healthy action and the healing process, and has besides the great advantage of rendering the use of anodynes unnecessary. —*Philadelphia Medical Times.*

**A CRYSTALLINE COATING FOR PAPER OR WOOD.**—Professor Böttger recommends the following recipe for this purpose: Mix a concentrated cold solution of salt with dextrine, and lay the thinnest possible coating of the fluid on the surface to be covered by means of a broad, soft brush. After drying, the surface has a beautiful, bright mother-of-pearl coating, which, in consequence of the dextrine, adheres firmly to paper and wood. The coating may be made adhesive to glass by doing it over with an alcoholic shellac solution. The following salts are mentioned as adapted to produce the most beautiful crystalline coating; sulphate of magnesia, acetate of soda, and sulphate of tin. Paper must be first sized, otherwise it will absorb the liquid and prevent the formation of crystals. Colored glass thus prepared gives a good effect by transmitted light. —*Boston Jour. Chemistry.*

**TEST FOR BILIOUS URINE.**—O. Rosenbach recommends in "Med. Centr. Bl.," the following as the easiest and a very reliable test for bile in urine: Urine is filtered through white filtering paper; if it contains bile the paper will be colored lively yellow till nearly brown. Now let one drop of pure concentrated nitric acid run down the side of the still moist filter; it will, in the presence of bile, leave a yellow streak, which soon turns orange with a violet border, and outside of this dark-blue and emerald green. These colours stay sometimes for hours. Urine, otherwise dark-colored, but not containing bile, does not show this display of colors. —*Ny Phar. Tid., 1876, p. 195. Am. jour. Pharm.*

**VANILLIN FROM WOOD-TAR.**—Reimer observed a reaction which is common to all phenols, by which the latter are transformed into aromatic aldehyds. Phenol is mixed with chloroform and an excess of soda solution; after the reaction the excess of undecomposed chloroform is distilled off and an acid added, when salicylic aldehyd is produced, which may be purified by combining with sodium bisulphite and liberation by an acid.