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## *Progress of Medical Science.*

### EXPLOSIVE COMBINATIONS IN PHARMACY.

We select the following items from an interesting article on dispensing in the London *Chemist's and Druggist's Almanac* for 1880:

Chloride or iodide of nitrogen is formed by the addition of chlorine or a chloride, or iodine or an iodide, to ammonia; and this compound is liable to violent explosion on coming in contact with phosphorus, iodine, arsenic, olive or cod-liver oil, turpentine, etc.

Tincture of iodine and ammonia are often prescribed together, and iodide of nitrogen is necessarily produced. The rarity of accidents is due to the fact that the iodide is not free from water.

Mr. Rice, in *New Remedies*, mentions an explosion resulting from the preparation of the following prescription, iodide of nitrogen being evidently the cause:

℞ Iodinii, gr. xv;  
Lin. camph. co.,  
Lin. saponis co., a a gr. lx.

A concentrated solution of iodine and iodide of potassium was filtered through paper. The next day the filter was touched to be removed, when the paper and funnel broke into atoms with a loud explosion.

Concentrated solutions of permanganate of potash in alcohol are liable to explosion, and bichromate of potash in alcohol may ignite the latter. Aqua regia will also often cause an explosion with alcoholates or essences.

Chlorate of potash mixed dry with tannin is

dangerous, and an explosion has resulted from its mixture with muriate of morphia. The following prescription was presented at a pharmacy in New York: it cannot be prepared without an explosion:

℞ Lactis sulphuris, gr. iij;  
Antimon. sulph. aurant., gr. iij;  
Zinci valerian., gr. i;  
Potass. chlorat., gr. ij.

The addition of nitrate of silver to essence of bitter almonds to remove the hydrocyanic acid has been followed by ignition.

The following compounds have at different times caused more or less serious accidents:

℞ Calcis hypophosphitis, gr. viij;  
Potassæ chloratis, gr. xij;  
Ferri lactatis, gr. v.

The trituration of hypophosphite of lime alone has sometimes resulted in an explosion. A man was killed at Erfurt while drying one kilogramme of the salt in a sand-bath. It is said to be most dangerous if quite pure.

℞ Glycerini, f 3 ij;  
Acidi chromici, 3i.

This mixture can be made by adding the acid to the glycerin by very slow degrees.

A mixture containing chlorate of potash, tincture of perchloride of iron, and glycerin once burst in the pocket of a patient.

Pills containing oxide of silver are liable to inflame if they become warm. They have taken fire in the pocket of a customer, causing severe burns.

Other compounds liable to inflame during or after preparation are permanganate of potash and extract of milfoil, permanganate of potash and reduced iron in pills, golden sulphuret of antimony and chlorate of soda in pills.

It is always dangerous to associate glycerin or,