

ADULTERATION OF KAMALA.—Kremel mentions in the *Zeitschrift der Ost. Apoth. Vereine*, 16-33, two cases of the adulteration of kamala. One sample contained so much red bole that its ash amounted to 79.5 per cent. Another specimen was mixed with the powdered flowers of carthamus tinctorius or safflower.

IRIDESCENT GLASS.—Glass is made iridescent by exposing it at a high temperature to the fumes of stannic chloride, to which barium or strontium nitrate is added, when deep colours are required.

EXCIPIENT.—A formula for what can be called a universal excipient. My experience for many years with this preparation has convinced me that it is superior to any and all other articles whatsoever for this purpose, whether simple or compound, and that nothing else is needed. It keeps of a firm but soft consistence, is exceedingly adhesive, and converts the most intractable substance for pill purposes, such as sulph. iron, resin guaiac, iod. potass., etc., into elegant, pliant masses, and with a very small quantity of the excipient; of course the pills so made will be always soft, and readily dissolve, or disintegrate, according to their composition. I will state, for the benefit of readers of limited experience, that it is important, when making pills, that the dry ingredients should be in a *very fine* powder. The following is the formula:

Dextrine.....	30 grains.
Powd. tragacanth.....	30 grains.
Glycerine.....	1 drachm.
Water.....	2 drachms.

—*Phila. Chemist.*

CASE OF CHRONIC BROMINE POISONING.—A. M., a man of large frame, fifty-four years of age, and of good constitution, had worked in the manufacture of bromide of potassium for ten years; the bromine gas, he avers, was at times so strong as to cause him to spit blood. The first symptoms that he noticed occurred more than a year ago, and were alternate diarrhoea and constipation; then followed vertigo and photopsia, together with some loss of co-ordination and anæsthesia of the lower extremities, but these symptoms were not severe enough to prevent his working, which he continued till August. The derangement of vision increased, but in December he could still read; about this time the photopsia gave way to amaurosis, which progressed, within a year from the first symptoms, to almost total blindness. There was great constipation, with enlargement and hardness of abdomen; dysuria and retention of urine, with vesical pain, were also prominent symptoms. The heart was irritable. The olfactory and gustatory functions were unimpaired, and there was no loss of memory.

While under Dr. Cohen's care, in the German Hospital, there was some improvement in the co-ordination.

Dr. Charles S. Turnbull, at whose instance the case was admitted, had diagnosed the following conditions; incipient atrophy of both optic nerves; the vision had diminished one half, the disks were white,

the arteries small and thready, and the retina anæmic, while there was loss of color perception and mydriasis. He also examined the urine, in which he discovered some traces of bromine.

Prof. DaCosta, who saw the case at the clinic, and to whom I gave notes, considered that there was also sclerosis of the anterior columns of the cord.

There are but few reported cases of chronic bromine gas poisoning, which renders the above of some interest.

DRUG AND CHEMICAL REPORT.

During early part of month a very fair amount of business was transacted, and the general feeling is that trade will continue active and healthy throughout the season, although in volume it will be less than before the depression. There have not been many changes in prices to note since our last report, and we do not look for any very marked change in any direction except, perhaps, in *Opium* and its preparations, and *Peruvian Bark* and its preparations. Recent reports from Smyrna respecting the former convey the information that the crop this year will not exceed 4,000 baskets, this being considerably under the average. The fears of a short supply have already brought speculators to the front, and prices have advanced in England about 1s. per lb. and in New York about 25 cents, with prospects of a still further advance in the near future.

The stock of *Peruvian Bark* in the market is likely to be affected by the present hostilities between Peru and Chili, and although quinine recently declined in price, any large orders would immediately cause an advance.

Salicine, which advanced steadily for the past two months, has now, that fresh Willow Bark can be obtained, begun to decline again, and will soon be in its normal condition.

Camphor in the American market experienced a firm advance last month, merely on account of the refiners not being able to meet the demand, but the demand having subsided somewhat, and the supply of crude being plentiful, the price has declined again.

Oil Peppermint, on account of short crop, has advanced rapidly to the extent of fully 25 per cent., and will likely be still higher.

Oil Wintergreen has also advanced, but merely on account of temporary shortness of stock. As soon as the new crop is ripe, there will be a plentiful supply.

Vanilla Beans are much higher, the crop this year not being up to half the usual quantity. The price will therefore be at least from \$3.00 to \$5.00 per lb. higher.

Cubels, in consequence of the extra demand for asthmatic smoking, has continued to rule high.

Castor Oil has declined somewhat, the crop in the East being much heavier than the previous year, and it is thought the price will be still lower than it is at present.