

organization capable of doing much good. The assistants have our best wishes, and may depend on our assistance in furtherance of the laudable objects which they have in view.

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## Editorial Summary.

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**SOLUBILITY OF SALICYLIC ACID.**—Mr. C. Becker (*Druggists' Circular*) finds that though by the use of borate, phosphate, or sulphite of soda, or phosphate of ammonia, the solubility of salicylic acid may be much increased, yet the solutions so produced soon deposit precipitates. They are rendered much more permanent by the addition of glycerin. One part of salicylic acid and one of borax in five of glycerin and twenty-five of water is said to be perfectly permanent. The acid is soluble in ten times its weight of dilute alcohol, U. S. P., at a temperature of 80° F.; in one and a-half times its weight of alcohol sp. gr. .835; in twice its weight of sulphuric ether; in twenty times its weight of hot turpentine; in cold turpentine, insoluble. When one part of the acid and two of olive oil are heated together they form a homogeneous mixture, which promises to be useful. After a time separation takes place, but the mixture may be easily reformed by agitation.

In the journal noted above there is also another paper on the same subject, but the statements of the writer, Mr. T. B. Kilner, do not always corespond with those just reproduced. Thus, according to the latter, the quantity of the dilute alcohol required for solution is twenty instead of ten parts. It is probable that these discrepancies have arisen from the use of different samples of acid, one or the other impure. Another mode of increasing the solubility of the acid is by the employment of some acetates, as lime, soda, potash or ammonia, as recommended by a correspondent of *New Remedies*. A good form, and one which has superseded all others in Bellevue and other hospitals, is the following: Salicylic acid, one drachm; potassium acetate, one drachm; glycerin, one fluid drachm; water to one fluid ounce. This solution contains one grain of acid in eight minims, but may be made stronger if necessary. Another method, emanating from a French source, and reproduced in the *Medical Times & Gazette*, may be noted. It depends on the use of citrate of ammonia: Salicylic acid, 1 part; citrate of ammonium, 2 parts; syrup, 30 parts; distilled water, 120 parts. The citrate has a similar effect if added to alcoholic solutions, and rum, or other spirit, may be substituted for the syrup in the above formula, but, in this case, 164 parts of water are required.