

Gleanings.

PENCILS OF YELLOW OXIDE MERCURY OINTMENT FOR OPHTHALMIC USE.—Babcock, in *The Ophthalmic Record*, calls attention to an old formula for preparing sticks of this ointment, which, although containing some unusual ingredients, is found in practice to be very serviceable. English graphite, 10 grains; yellow oxide of mercury, 20 to 40 grains; oil of theobroma, 4 drachms; butter of antimony, 2 drops. Mix and mould into pencils. Instead of the butter of antimony any bland oil will do. In applying the stick to the lids, it is rubbed on the eyelids, and the eyes closed for about ten seconds, when any excess is wiped off. If it is to be introduced into the eye, a small piece is picked off, softened between the fingers, and put between the ball and the lower lid, or the upper lid is everted and dressed with the pencil. It is also a good application for any abrasion of the lips or nostrils.

GLOBULARIN AND GLOBULARETIN.—The glucoside of *Globularia alypum*, globularin, and its product of hydrolysis, globularetin, have been submitted to a therapeutic examination by Mourson; he finds that the glucoside possesses a stimulating action similar to that of caffeine, and globularetin possesses a distinct action in various urinary diseases.—*Les Nouv. Remèdes*.

PREPARATION OF CRYSTALS.—W. Tassin has reviewed the several methods of preparing crystals for the determination of their geometrical and physical constants, and groups them under the three heads: solution, sublimation, and fusion. **Solution.**—In the first class, crystals of a substance are prepared from its solution in a liquid by evaporating and cooling the solution, by the reaction of soluble compounds, or by chemical changes in general. The general rules to be observed, are that crystallization must proceed as slowly as possible, the solution must be of the least viscosity possible, the crystallizing substance must be present in the solution in the greatest quantity, removal of the crystals should preferably be effected when the solution is at its minimum temperature, and crystals desired for measurement must be quickly and completely dried in order to prevent corrosion or etch figures forming. **Sublimation.**—In this case crystals may be obtained direct, or a non-volatile com-

pound may be obtained as a result of chemical action between two or more volatile substances, or from a volatile substance and a gas. **Fusion.**—Crystals in the third group are secured, either with or without pressure, by slowly cooling a homogeneous magma, or by a solution of the substance in a molten magma.—*Proc. Am. Chem. Soc.—Phar. Jour.*

A NEW ANTISEPTIC.—Thiophene, the sulphur analogue of benzene, discovered by the late Professor Victor Meyer, is now being employed in the preparation of what is described as a very powerful antiseptic. Iodine, either in the presence of iodic acid or of mercuric oxide, reacts with thiophene to form a di-iodide $C_4H_2I_2S$. It contains 75.5 per cent. of iodine, and forms a crystalline powder melting at 40.5° ; insoluble in water, but soluble in the usual organic solvents. It is recommended for a dusting powder, and as gauze for dressing wounds.

KOLA NUTS.—According to Knebel, who discovered kolanine in kola nuts, this glucoside is broken up under the influence of a special ferment, into caffeine, glucose, and a red coloring matter. He considered that the action was not completed till the nuts were dry, and that, therefore, the dry nuts contained a relatively greater amount of caffeine than the fresh nuts. Francois has, however, examined the fresh and the dry nuts very carefully, and finds that dessication does not at all alter the proportion of caffeine contained in the nuts (allowing for the moisture driven off, of course); nor are the nuts containing the greatest proportion of red coloring matter richest in alkaloid, which should be the case, according to Knebel.—*Repertoire de Pharmacie.*—*B. and C. Druggist.*

BISMUTHAN.—This body is a canary yellow, odorless powder, with a sweetish taste, insoluble in water. It consists of bismuth combined with resorcin and tannin, and is especially recommended as a remedy against diarrhoea in children, in doses of from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 grain.—*Apotheker Zeitung.*

FILTRATION THROUGH COTTON.—D. R. Dom strongly recommends absorbent cotton as a filtering medium, the chief advantage claimed for it being its rapidity of action, which renders it of special value in filtering preparations containing volatile or readily oxidizable constituents, such as medicated waters, spirits, and ferrous preparations. The difference in viscosity of preparations requiring filtration must be

allowed for by greater or less compression of the cotton plug. As a general rule, however, the cotton should be rolled into a cone-shaped plug, which is then to be pressed down carefully into the neck of the funnel in such a manner that the bulk of the cotton remains in the body of the funnel. A glass rod is then pressed gently on the cotton and the liquid poured down the rod. In the case of fluid extracts and other preparations containing much suspended or sedimentary matter, cotton is not suitable for filtering purposes.—*Bulletin of Pharmacy.*

DISINFECTANT PERFUME.—Crawalowski proposes to dissolve pure sulphurous acid gas at a low temperature in alcohol, and add to it thymol and perfume. This would be sprayed in the ordinary way, or if supercharged with sulphurous acid could be sprayed out of syphons by its own internal pressure.

ACETO-SALICYLIC ACID, which is claimed to possess powerful antiseptic properties, is prepared by Limpach (*Pharm. Rund.*) by decomposing the sodium salt of ortho-oxy-benzonitril or of ortho-oxy-benzamid with monochloroacetic acid and decomposing the acid amide or nitril group by boiling with soda solution.

To Avoid Contagion.

In these days of microbe and contagion from all things, a new set of sanitary regulations for general guidance ought to be jumbled up into the form of an act and shovelled before the Viceroy's Council, says a foreign paper, in order that it may become a law. A few suggestions like the following might help the Deputy Legal Remembrancer:

Every hotel, hostel, bar or restaurant-keeper must set apart a special knife, fork, spoon, plate, glass and table for each customer, and the customer's name must be inscribed.

No two persons must be supplied with milk from the same cow.

No two men may kiss the same girl.

Small boys must not wear jackets that their elder brothers have grown out of.

It is a criminal offence to cut down parental pants to fit the offspring.

No person shall sit on another person's lap on pain of death.—*Exchange.*

Styes.—Professor Hare aborts styes by frequent applications of yellow oxide of mercury ointment.