

## TO COVER PILLS WITH SUGAR.

"The pills are put into a hemispherical metallic pan, which is slightly warmed, and a small quantity of a solution of one part of gum; two parts of water are added, so as to moisten the surface of the pills; some powdered sugar is then sprinkled over them, and by moving the pan they are thus covered with a coating of sugar. They are subsequently placed on a sieve, and exposed in a warm room till they become dry. If a thicker coating is required, the process is repeated.—*Chemist and Druggist*.

## WAFER ENVELOPES.

The wafer is a preparation rarely used in this country, but much employed abroad for enveloping doses of medicine, especially in the form of powder. We have met with no recipe for this preparation in any of the works on pharmacy, and have heretofore obtained only those imported from France.

In the absence of any directions in the books, we have adopted the following process with complete success:—

Two sad-irons are warmed to a temperature at which they may be touched without burning the fingers, not so hot as to occasion a globule of water to run off when thrown on the level surface. One of the irons is maintained at a slightly increased temperature by inverting it over the gas furnace; a very little oil of almonds or butter, or a fragment of cotton cloth, is now rubbed over the surface of each iron. A portion of the finest wheaten flour, mixed with water into a smooth batter or thin paste is now poured on the inverted iron, and the other iron is immediately pressed firmly upon it. After a minute or two the wafer is removed and trimmed into shape. The French wafers are cut into circular discs of about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches diameter, which appears to be done by the use of annular steel punches. We think the square wafer possesses some advantage for enveloping powders and pills, by folding the corners into the center. In using the wafer, it is to be moistened by dipping into a tumbler of water, laid on the palm of the hand, the powder or pill dropped in the centre, the edges folded over it, when it may be swallowed like an oyster, without tasting its contents.—*Chemist and Druggist*.

## SUPPOSITORIES.

"Machine-made Suppositories," of elegant quality and finish, made of cocoa butter, with a variety of medicinal ingredients, have lately been introduced in this city (Philadelphia,) and have led to enquiries among our pharmacutists as to the best arrangements for producing them.

To what has been already published by A. B. Taylor, in the *American Journal of Pharmacy*, and in Parrish's work, we may add a few practical suggestions, the result of recent experience in this manipulation. The consistence of cocoa butter alone is not well adapted to the preparation of an elegant and firm suppository. It is a good basis when combined with a harder and rather less fusible material. We have found wax, in the proportion of one part to five of the cocoa butter, to answer a very good purpose.

A piece of very stout glazed paper is cut up into oblong pieces,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches long by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  wide, and rolled into a cone, which should be  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches long and half an inch at the base; the free end of the paper is secured by a tip of sealing wax, and at the extreme point of the cone an eighth of an inch is clipped off, and the opening sealed up. The object is next to arrange these cones with the open end in a proper position to be filled with ingredients; this is conveniently done in a shallow vessel of flaxseed—sand is objectionable from its liability, if accidentally thrown into the cone, to produce irritation when the suppository is applied. The butter of cocoa and wax should be melted by a gentle heat, and then the active ingredients added and constantly stirred until it begins to chill, then poured into the paper cones and set aside to harden. The paper should not be removed from the suppository until it has become thoroughly hardened, and by this means it will acquire a clear, polished surface. The time required to prepare a dozen or more suppositories is from half an hour to an hour; the physician should be reminded in advance that they cannot be furnished without some little delay.—*Chemist and Druggist*.