

Drug Report.

Business is fairly active, more for future supplies than actual wants, as business is quiet but should soon pick up.

Hops are higher.

The slight drop in silver tended to make East India goods easier, the recent advance will again stiffen values.

Cocaine has advanced fully 50 per cent., the leaves are very scarce and there is a probability that before the next crop reaches us it will amount to nearly a famine. Glycerine is easier. Ipecac Root still has an upward tendency. Colchicum Seeds, lower. Beans Vanilla, Mexican crop good, prices low, sales large; cheap substitutes and imitations are plenty; any preparation, white or colorless, that claims to be made from Vanilla may at once be known as a fraud. Cattle-Fish Bone, the catch this year is only half usual amount, prices are higher. Insect Powder, prices have steadily declined and are lower than for years, look out for low prices after January 1st. Quinine unchanged. Pot. Iodide, no change to note. The advance has taken place in Glassware as we predicted, we understand jobbers are giving 35 per cent. and 30 per cent. respectively, on Green and Flint Glass in case lots.

Lanolin Cold Creams and Cooling Ointments.

The peculiar property which lanolin possesses of mixing with water renders it specially adapted for making cold cream and ointments of a cooling nature. It is well known that the presence of water in ointments has a remarkably cooling effect upon the skin, due to the slow evaporation of the water. Dr. Unna, the celebrated skin specialist, has found that the mixture of lanolin with an ordinary fat enables a large quantity of water to be incorporated therewith, and for ointments the proportions given are lanolin 1, fat 2, water 3, and for creams double the quantity of water. The following are a few formulae suggested by Dr. Unna, the figures in the first column being for ointments, and in the second for creams:—

COOLING.

	Parts.
Anhydrous lanolin.....	10 10
Benzoyated lard.....	20 20
Rose-water.....	30 60

Cooling with lime water, use the same as above, but limewater instead of rose-water.

GOULARD'S CERATE AND CREAM.

	Parts.
Anhydrous lanolin.....	10 10
Benzoyated lard.....	20 20
Goulard's solution.....	30 60

Cooling zinc ointment may be made like the rose-perfumed ointment, using 20 parts of zinc ointment in place of the benzoyated lard.

COOLING POMADE.

	Parts.
Anhydrous lanolin.....	10
Pomade.....	20
Distilled water.....	30

Any suitable perfume pomade may be used, and lime-water may take the place of distilled water.—*Chemist and Druggist.*

The Physiology of Sponges.

From experiments made by Dr. Lendenfeld, of Innsbruck, in connection with the physiology of sponges, it appears that absorption of food does not take place at the outer surface, but in the interior; only foreign substances used for building up the skeleton enter the sponge without passing into the canal-system. Grains of carmine and other matters often adhere to the flat cells of the canals, but true absorption only takes place in the ciliated cylindrical cells of the of the ciliated chamber. These get quite filled with carmine grains or milk spherules, but starch grains prove too large for them. Remaining in these cells a few days, the carmine cells are then ejected, while milk particles are partly digested, and then passed on to the migratory cells of the intermediate layer. Any carmine particles found in these latter cells have entered accidentally through external lesions. The sponge contracts its pores when poisons are put in the water, and the action is very like that of poisons on the muscles of the higher animals. Especially remarkable is the cramp of sponges under strychnine, and the lethargy (to other stimuli) of sponges treated with cocaine. As these poisons, in the higher animals, act indirectly on the muscles through the nerves, it seems not without warrant to suppose that sponges also have nerve cells which cause muscular contraction.

Solubility of Some Official Chemicals of the U. S. P.

T. W. Theisen, of the School of Pharmacy of the University of Wisconsin, has recently recorded in *Pharm. Rundschau*, the results of a series of careful experiments. The temperature of solutions was uniformly at 15° C. and the mean of several experiments are made as the resultant figure given. The solutions are in water except when given for alcohol, which are noted thus (alc.):

Acid salicylic.....	1 in 435.5
Acid salicylic (alc.).....	1 in 2.72
Argenti nitras.....	1 in 0.59
Argenti nitras (alc.).....	1 in 19.5
Hydrarg. chlor. corros.....	1 in 17.74
Hydrarg. chlor. corros (alc.).....	1 in 2.72
Plumbi acetat (alc.).....	1 in 30.25
Potass. bitart.....	1 in 25.5
Potass. iodide (alc.).....	1 in 15.1
Potass. sulph.....	1 in 10.03
Potass. sulph. (in boil'g water).....	1 in 4.22
Saccharum lactis.....	1 in 6.7
Sodii borat.....	1 in 27.
Sodii hyposulphis.....	1 in 0.648
Zinci sulphat.....	1 in 0.7

A LEITH Chemist avers that the following incident happened at his counter a little while back;—

Customer: A pouther for a bairn.

Assistant: What age, please?

Customer: Oh! I'm jist expecting it tae be born the nicht.



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