

*bonate of soda* (say 100 grains in five pints of water), and then washed through two or three more waters to free it from traces of alkali. [Much caution should be used in using this alkaline solution lest it neutralize the bleaching effect of the previous solutions.] When the sponges are nearly dry immerse them in a solution of glycerine in water, of the strength of a half ounce of glycerine in the pint; squeeze them by hand and let them dry in the air, but not exposed to *direct* sunlight. This will leave them beautifully white and soft to the touch.—*Druggists' Circular*.

**PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF SALICYLATE OF SODA.**—Under this heading Dr. Feltz (*La France Méd.*) describes a case of poisoning by this drug, taken without any medical man's orders. The case shows emphatically the culminative action of the salicylate, of which two hundred grammes were taken during a month, for the first six days four grammes daily, the next seven days, six grammes a day, and for the last seventeen days, eight grammes daily in three doses, equal to about twenty-five grains of salicylic acid three times a day. There were frequent vomiting, complete anorexia, and a coated tongue. The chief symptom was constant severe headache, with violent attacks of severity, making the patient scream out so as to be heard at a distance. It appeared, as the patient said, as if his head were being struck with a hammer. The pain was chiefly on the summit of the head. Each crisis was preceded by a redness of the neck mounting rapidly to the head. The pupils were contracted. The symptoms continued with great severity for ten days after the drug was stopped, and continued with less severity for seven days more. Traces of salicylic acid were found in the urine up to the sixteenth day.—*The Doctor*.

**HYOSCYAMINE IN THE TREATMENT OF THE INSANE.**—Dr. Robert Lawson (*West Riding Lunatic Asylum Medical Reports*) gives the following estimate of hyoscyamine: It possesses great value in the treatment of cases in which aggressive and destructive excitement is the leading symptom of insanity, in cases of chronic mania with special delusions of suspicion, mania of a subacute or recurrent form and simple mania characterized from the first more by agitation than excitement, and due to the existence of obscure delusions and hallucinations. In the treatment of the excitement of general paralysis, in the epileptiform seizures of the same disease and in the epileptic status, it is also of use where chloral, as rarely happens, is found to fail. But, perhaps, the most striking results, from the use of the drug, occur in the treatment of such patients as willfully or impulsively destroy large quantities of clothes and bedding. In willful destructiveness three-quarters of a grain at a single dose reduces the patient to reason, and, for a time at least, puts an end to his expensive habits.

**BENZOIC ACID.**—Rump has stated that all the German "sublimed" benzoic acid is made by subliming the artificial acid made from urine with a

little benzoïn. This is denied by Gehe & Co. in their last report. The Australian gum-acroides is now used to a considerable extent for making this acid.

**BROWN-SEQUARD'S PRESCRIPTION FOR THE TREATMENT OF EPILEPSY:**

℞ Sodii Bromidi,  
Potassii Bromidi,  
Ammonii Bromidi.....aa 3 iiii  
Potassii Iodidi,  
Ammonii Iodidi.....aa 3 iss  
Ammonia Sesquicarb..... 3 i  
Tinct. Columbæ..... 3 iss  
Aquæ destilatæ.....ad ʒ viii

Full dose, one and one-half drachms before each meal and three drachms at bed time.—(*Boston Medical Journal*).

**ZINC PERMANGANATE.**—A. Kupffer states that the commercial solution of zinc permanganate contains only 10, instead of 25, per cent. as stated. It is also contaminated with chlorids. It should be made by Gustavsen's method—viz., by decomposing barium manganate with carbonic or dilute sulphuric acid, and adding to the solution of barium permanganate thus produced an equivalent quantity of zinc sulphate. The strength of the solution should not exceed 48 grains to the ounce.

**PARACOTOIN.**—Professor Baelz, of Tokio, Japan, has had striking success in the cure of malignant cholera by means of paracotoïn. He administered, by hypodermic injection, 2 gramme suspended in equal parts of glycerine and water. In the only five cases in which he employed it the cure was prompt and thorough. The Japanese Government has taken measures to provide a supply of the drug for use in any fresh outbreak.

**VANILLIN SAID TO BE USELESS AS A FLAVOURING AGENT.**—The discovery of a process for producing vanillin artificially was of great chemical interest, but it appears from a circular issued by Messrs. Haas & Rosenfeld, of Gay, Moravia, that the product, though valuable for perfumery, does not possess the flavouring properties of vanilla. The same is true of vanillin obtained from the plant itself.

**THE ALLEGED ANTAGONISTIC ACTION OF ATROPIN AND MORPHIN.**—Dr. Knapstein, of Bonn, in an article in the *Berlin Klin. Wochenschrift*, No. 47 (quoted in Hager's *Pharmaceutical Centralhalle*), reports a series of experiments undertaken to test the power alleged to be possessed by morphin and atropin to mutually neutralise the effects the one of the other. These experiments show that a simultaneous administration of morphin with atropin or *vice versa* did not allow larger doses of either poison to be administered to dogs than they could support if given singly. It is possible that in cases where such immunity would seem to have been observed comparatively inert atropin may have been employed.