

A FEW NOTES ON PHARMACY.

Editor Canadian Pharmaceutical Journal.

DEAR SIR,—Having a few spare moments at command, I employ them by making two or three notes, hoping thereby to make the Journal a medium for the interchange of ideas amongst its readers. I commence by stating what I conceive to be a fatal objection to Mr. Campbell's plan of making Fluid Extracts without the application of heat.

We have just been making 4 lbs. Fluid Extract Gentian. We reduced 64 Troy ounces to the necessary degree of fineness, moistened it, and carefully packed it in a conical percolator. We then gradually added the menstruum, intending when it commenced dropping, to put in a cork, and let it macerate for 24 hours before proceeding with the percolation. Before the dropping point was reached, the drug had absorbed twelve pints of diluted alcohol. How is it possible that the drawing off of four pints of Fluid Extract, as proposed by Mr. Campbell, or even of eight pints as proposed by Mr. Lartlett could completely exhaust the Gentian? If twelve pints were absorbed before dropping commenced, it seems to me that every particle of that twelve pints must have received a portion of the active properties of the Gentian; that it would take at least twelve pints to exhaust it; and that, consequently, evaporation was absolutely necessary to make an eligible Fluid Extract.

I have found "Aiken's" plan for the preservation of mucilage by the addition of 2 oz. of alcohol to the pint of mucilage, a good one, and beg to thank him for his hint. My mucilage has not gone sour since I tried it. Of course it should not be used where the mucilage is intended for cough mixtures, or in any case where there is danger of arousing inflammatory action.

I can cordially recommend an apparatus described in the earlier numbers of the JOURNAL as an efficient and economical source of heat for the large majority of operations necessary in a country store. It consists of a coal oil lamp, with a copper jacket (filled with water) in place of a chimney; the copper jacket communicates, by means of tubes, with a reservoir raised above the lamp, and filled with water. This water is raised to the boiling point by the flame of the lamp. It is a little slow in boiling, but once boiling there is no trouble. It will boil away all day without any attention at all. I use it for making syrups and ointments, distilling fluid extracts, and even spreading plasters.

Should not the Council shortly decide upon the text-books necessary for students to become acquainted with, and give some outline of the probable subjects for examination, so that employers may learn what course of study to stimulate their employees to take up?

Yours truly,

PAILE.

PRACTICAL FORMULÆ.

Door Man's Plaster.

Beeswax.....1 ounce.
Tar3 ounces.
Resin 3 ounces.
Melt together, and spread on paper or muslin.—*Druggists' Circular.*

Solution of Santonine.

Take Santonini, in pulvere.....gr. xij.
Sodæ Bicarbonatis.....gr. xx.
Aque Distillate.....ʒij.

Put the soda and water into a flask, keep the fluid near the boiling-point, and add the santonine about two grains at a time until the whole is dissolved. Solution is effected in about half an hour, during which time the water is reduced to ʒij., or if not, may be reduced to that bulk, when ʒj. will contain a full dose—six grains of santonine.

The solution is bright and permanent, strongly alkaline, free from odor, and, except that of carbonate of soda, taste. Carefully neutralized with acetic acid, an equally bright and permanent solution is formed. Both may be diluted to any extent with hot or cold water without impairing the solution of the santonine. The whole, or nearly the whole, of the santonine is precipitated in its original form of colorless rectangular plates, with bevelled edges, immediately by mineral acids, and after some hours by excess of acetic acid.—*DR. HARLEY in the Practitioner.*

Worcestershire Sauce.

POLYPISTOR, a well-known contributor to the columns of the *Druggists' Circular*, gives to that journal the following recipe, which is said to be that of Lea & Perrin, the originators of the sauce referred to:—

White vinegar.....15 gallons.
Walnut catsup.....10 "
Madeira wine..... 5 "
Mushroom catsup.....10 "
Table salt.....25 pounds.
Canton soy..... 4 gallons.
Powd. capsicum..... 2 pounds.
Allspice, powd.....
Coriander, powd., āā..... 1 pound.
Cloves
Mace.....
Cinnamon, āā..... ½ pound.
Assafoetida, ½ pound, dissolved
in brandy..... 1 gallon.

Twenty pounds of hogs' liver is boiled for 12 hours in 10 gallons of water, renewing the water from time to time. Take out the liver, chop it, mix with water, and work it through a sieve: mix with the sauce.

IMITATION NO. 1.

White vinegar.....240 gallons.
Canton soy..... 36 "
Sugarhouse syrup..... 30 "
Walnut catsup..... 50 "
Mushroom catsup..... 50 "
Table salt.....120 pounds.
Powd. capsicum..... 15 "
Allspice,
Coriander, of each 7 pounds.
Cloves,
Mace,
Cinnamon, of each..... 4 pounds.
Assafoetida, 2½ pounds, dis-
solved in St. Croix rum... 1 gallon.

On the Assay of Soap.

M. F. Schulze communicates to the *Journal de Pharmacie et de Chimie* a rapid and convenient method of estimating the value of soap. The method is the same as that adopted for estimating the hardness of potable water, i.e., it is based on the fact that lime water precipitates a solution of soap yielding a liquor which does not give a persistent froth by agitation. The process is conducted as follows: A standard solution of lime is made by dissolving 1.6 grammes in water, with a little caustic soda, and making up the solution to one litre; Five grammes of the soap are weighed and dissolved in boiling water; the solution is allowed to cool, and is made up to a determinate volume, say 100 c.c. for soft soap, 200 c.c. for hard soap. Three c.c. of the standard lime solution are now added to 20 c.c. of distilled water, and to this diluted solution the soap liquor is added gradually from a burette. At first, the soap added is precipitated by the calcareous water, and a persistent froth is not produced by agitation, but, after a time, a point is reached at which the froth becomes persistent. The volume of soap solution requisite to produce this effect is then noted; the quantity is smaller the better the quality of the soap. If, moreover, an assay has been made on a sample of soap of standard value, a very exact appreciation of the value of any given sample of soap may be subsequently obtained by comparing the results.—*Chemist and Druggist.*

TRADE REPORT.

The spring trade opened at an unusually early period, and goods have gone off briskly. Stocks will now be low in all classes of heavy goods until the opening of navigation. Consequent on the great disturbance in the European labor market, very many goods are coming out higher; those who buy early will probably save considerably. The general tendency of prices is towards an advance.

The following articles in our Prices Current are quoted dearer:—Acid Tart., and Tartrates generally; Cantharides, Ext. Belladonna, Shellacs, Citrate of Iron and Quinine, and Mercurial preparations. Best Oil of Lemon, Potass Iodide and Iodides generally. Aniline Red, and Vermillion, have been very dear, but have slightly receded again. Sps. Turpentine is scarce and dear. Linseed Oils are advancing, as is also Olive Oil for machinery. Quinine maintains a high price, and is scarce. It is understood that Pelletier's manufactory is entirely disorganized, creating a deficiency of 6,000 ozs. per week. The following will be found quoted at reduced rates:—Ether nitrous, Bals. Tolu, Vanilla, Bismuth and preparations, Camphor crude, Ergot, Morphias, Opium, Sarza Honduras; Spanish Saffron, Strychnine, Ext. Logwood, Whiting, and Lard Oils.