Combustible Soap Compound.

Richard Adam, of Gobenstrasse 7, Berlin, has taken out a patent for a soap compound, which can also be burnt as a deodorizer or perfuming agent for the atmosphere. In the process for its manufacture pure spirit of wine of 85 96 per cent. is heated until nearly the boiling point, then during continuous stirring melted soap or a suitable soap powder is added in a proportion previously ascertained in accordance with the use the production is to be put to. When all the soap is dissolved the mixture is removed from the fire, after the addition of glycerine, balsams, perfumes and the like.

The mixture so obtained is then, provided the addition of soap does not exceed 10·20 per cent. of the spirit of wine, poured into receivers, which are then closed air-tight, and from which it can be taken after it has set, as fit for use, being in the state of a soft gelatinous mass; 20·35 per cent. of soap added to the spirit of wine gives a more consistent mass, which is, after it has set, rubbed down into the form of cream. This is best done in a vessel or by means of rollers or similar mechanical devices.

A larger percentage addition than 35 per cent. of soap is impracticable, as it injures the inflammability of the product, whilst on the other hand, if less than 10 per cent. of soap is added, the effect of the product as a soap is lost. In order to make the soap suitable as a preservative of the skin and to give it the desired pleasing odor, a short time before removing the mixture from the fire 5 per cent. of pure glycerine, 0.25 per cent. of balsam of Peru, any known perfume, and, further, 0.25 per cent. of balsam of tolu are added.

The addition of the balsams has further the special purpose of disguising the smell of the burning soap particles caused by the burning of the spirit of wine, and these balsams perfume the air when the soap is burnt as a deodorizer or perfuming agent for the atmosphere.—*Soap-maker and Perfumer.*

Thymol in Whooping Cough.—Fischer recommends thymol in this disease—one part to seven of syrup. The cough is relieved very quickly. Care must be taken in its administration, as, in order to obtain the full benefit of the drug, it must be dissolved and absorbed into the system.

Obituary.

Henry C. Parke.

Mr. Henry C. Parke, of the firm of Parke, Davis & Co., died at San Diego, California, February 8th, from heart failure.

Deceased was born at Bloomfield, Mich., in 1827, his father being a practising physician in that town. He spent several years as financial manager of the Cleveland Cliffs Co., of Gladstone, Mich., and afterwards opened a hardware store at Portage Lake, which he subsequently sold out. In 1866 Mr. Parke entered into partnership with Mr. S. P. Duffield, as manufacturing chemists, in Detroit, the firm name being Duffield, Parke& Co. Two years afterwards the firm was reorganized under the name of Parke, Davis & Co., the members being H. C. Parke, George S. Davis, J. R. Grout and W. H. Stevens. In 1876 letters of incorporation were obtained with a capital of $500,000, which was subsequently increased to a larger amount. Mr. Parke has long been a prominent figure in business circles and was universally esteemed.

John Frith.

John Frith, who has been in the employ of the Lyman Bros. Co., having charge of "wet department" for a number of years, died Feb. 22nd, aged sixty-two years. Deceased came to Canada from Ireland, in company with his brother, who was totally blind, about thirty-five years ago. Mr. Frith commenced with the firm of Lyman, Elliott & Co. thirty-three years ago, and remained with the same house until his death. He was a general favorite with all the employees and his employers. He was unmarried. His brother died a couple of years ago, since which time he has lived alone. His funeral took place February 24th, and was attended by nearly the whole staff of the warehouse.

Another Artificial Musk.—A strong musk odour is procured under a Belgian patent, by distilling Zanzibar copal, amber or resin, the product being neutralised with ammonia. Alcohol is added and afterwards evaporated. The liquid is extracted with ether, which on evaporation leaves the artificial perfume as an oily liquid.

Keeping Rubber Bright.

A writer in a German India-rubber journal shows how the bright red color of certain rubber goods may be maintained, and the general welfare of rubber materials sustained. The white color, he says, is due in the first instance to French chalk, which does not show itself while the goods are perfectly dry, but which is easily removed by wiping with naphtha. The other cause of trouble is the sulphur, which slowly makes its appearance on the surface after some weeks, and although the sulphur can be got rid of by boiling the article in 5 per cent. caustic soda, many articles will not stand such treatment. Again, rubbing with cotton waste soaked in naphtha is mentioned as another resort of some value. Goods of this kind which have to be exposed in shop windows are improved by being rubbed with glycerine, soap, chloride of calcium, or other hygroscopic substances, though this makes them somewhat slippery.

The Mistake of Overbuying.

More failure can be attributed to overbuying than to any other one cause, with perhaps the exception of incompetency and lack of capital. Overbuying is to be avoided only by close application, constant vigilance, and all-round information. To disregard possible overstocking is to invite embarrassment. The judicious purchasing of goods, in quantity as well as in kind, is one of the corner-stones of success.

The successful buyer is one who is conversant with his business and who is likewise a man of resolute character. He is one who keeps close tab on his stock and who can tell you in a moment just what amount of stock he has on hand of every grade. He is one who studies his trade and the requirements of his customers. As a result, he knows what novelties he can sell and to what extent. He is always in position to regulate his purchases and thereby keep his stock in proper condition. He is always wide-awake and well informed on what is being offered in the market.—*Bulletin Pharmacy.*

The most deadly poison is that found in an African plant. As little as a one-thousand millionth part of an ounce of it produces a distinctly injurious effect upon the heart, and only twice that quantity kills.