Absinthe Poison.

"Some decidedly marked symptoms distinguish simple alcoholic intoxication from intoxication by the aid of absinthe liquor. Those abuse the latter poison experience stupefaction and terrifying hallucinations, and the enfeebleness of the intellect advances with extreme rapidity. These clinical differences suggest the supposition that absinthe by itself exercises a special action. In order to verify this hypothesis, I have sought to isolate, by the aid of experiments on animals, the poisonous effects due to absinthe from those which result from alcohol.

"Pretty numerous facts, observed on dogs, and rabbits which have been made to swallow the pure essence of absinthe leave no room to doubt the poisonous action of this substance.

"The essence of absinthe, in doses of 2 and 3 grammes, induces trembling, stupor, insensibility, and all the appearances of a profound terror. If the dose is raised to 5 and 8 grammes, it leads to convulsions like those of epilepsy, with involuntary evacuations, froth on the lips and stertorous respiration. These symptoms pass off, and do not result in death.

"These experiments appear to me worthy of interest, and prove that the absinthe liquor exercises a double toxical action which explains its effects on the nervous system."—*La Science Pour Tous.*

Artificial Production of Monsters.

A series of experiments have been made by M. Barthelemy on monstrosities, both artificial and natural, among the lepidoptera. He performed his experiments chiefly on the chrysalis, and endeavoured to cause modifications similar to those obtained by covering the eggs of birds with varnish. On covering the chrysalis with oil, it was found that they died before completing the metamorphoses; but on covering either the thoracic or abdominal part with wax, a retardation of development was perceived, but this was much greater with the thoracic parts. The cephalic part of the nervous system was much retarded in development, but the other parts of the ganglionic chain appeared to be developed as usual. He succeeded also in suppressing the development of the generative organs.

Process for Estimating the Value of Milk.

Take a known weight of the milk, heat it to boiling, then put it in a bottle, and allow it to cool to 12° or 15° (R.). Then shake the bottle until the butter separates, which can be removed, drained, and weighed. This simple operation twice repeated will give satisfactory results.—*Hozerman, Archiv. der Pharm.*, November, 1863.

Temperatures at which Metal boil.

These have been hitherto determined by means of an air phyrometer, but M. Becquerel has adopted another method for their determination. The instrument he employs is a thermo-electric pile, and with it he found that the following metals boil at the following degrees Fahrenheit: cadmium 1328; zinc 1,688; silver 1,681; gold 1,879; palladium 2,517; platinum 2,690. It is of some importance to state that certain of these figures are lower than those obtained by M. Becquerel, when using the air pyrometer.

A Scrap for Shoemakers.

Perhaps it may not be generally known that the reason why many shoemakers do not work on Mondays originated in the following tradition:—While Oliver Cromwell was encamped at Perth, he received intelligence of the death, by suicide, of John Monday, one of his most zealous and active partizans, who lived at a village a little to the north of Damhead. Out of respect to the momory of John, his patron (Cromwell) offered a reward in Perth, to the person who should compose the best eulogy on the death of Monday.—Among the claiments for the promised reward was a worthy son of St. Crispin, belonging to the "Fair City," who sent in the following quatrain:—

> "Blessed be the Sabbath day,
> And curs'd be wordly pelf,
> Tuesday will now begin the week,
> Since Monday's hanged himself."

Cromwell was so well pleased with this that the reward was not only granted him, but he also directed that the shoemakers should have henceforth the Monday of each week as a holiday —*American Artizan.*

Poison Bottles.

Poison bottles and poison corks, poison caps and poison stoppers, have all successively been tried, with the object of preventing careless or sleepy nurses from giving medicines out of the wrong bottles and thereby poisoning their patients; but they are all open to the objection that when the liquid for which they have been originally used is exhausted, the very nice looking bottle is generally replenished with eau de cologne, tincture of senna, or such like innocent compounds, and the object of having a peculiarly contrived bottle is thereby defeated. Perhaps the most unobjectionable of all these attempts to substitute a mechanical contrivance for ordinary caution and common sense, has been recently brought forward by Mr. Thonger, before the Pharmaceutical Society. It consists of a patent label having a border of sandpaper round it, thus appealing strongly to the sense of touch, which is presumed will warn the holder that danger is near. These labels are applicable to dispensing bottles and to the smallest phials, and possess an advantage over any other contrivance, as they can be stuck on any vessel, and as readily removed when the poisonous contents are done with, and the bottle is required for something else.—*Chronicle of Chemistry in the Quarterly Journal of Science.*

Pepsine from the Pancreas.

A lecture by Dr. Corvisart contains a hint for the makers of pepsine. The Doctor removed the pancreas from a man who died suddenly after inhaling chloroform, cut it into small pieces, and shook them up with 400 grammes of cold distilled water. After filtration, one portion of this liquor was rendered slightly acid with hydrochloric acid; another portion was made alkaline with potash, and the third part was left as it was. The digestive power of each was then tested with fibrin and albumen, the mixture being kept at about 40° C., and in every case the digestion was rapidly effected.