

Recent Papers.

PROFITABLE SPECIALTIES FOR SALE AT THE COUNTER.—L. L. Watters, Salt Lake City. —*American Druggist*, Nov. 10.

The author urges upon pharmacists the advisability of putting up a line of specialties suitable to his line of trade; amongst others he gives the following formulæ for headache wafers and a toilet cream:

ACETOCAPFEINE HEADACHE REMEDY.

Acetanilide 240 grs.
Caffeine 40 "
Sodium bicarbonate 60 "
Mix and divide into 60 cachets.

EPIDERMOL.

Quince seed 8 drs.
Boiling water 4 pints (wine)
Steep for two hours in a covered vessel, stirring often, then strain.

Borax ½ oz.
Boric acid ½ "
Dissolve in hot water to 64 ozs., and add
Glycerine 12 ozs.

In another bottle mix
Bulk perfume 2½ ozs.
Alcohol to 16 "

Add the mucilage of quince seed, part by part, to the mixture of borax and perfume solutions, shaking well after each addition.

TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN EUCAINE AND COCAINE.—(*Bull. Gen. de Therapeutique*.)

The addition of a few drops of 5 per cent. solution of chromic acid to solution of eucaine hydrochloride produces a yellow crystalline precipitate, which is not formed with cocaine salts. On adding 3cc. of 10 per cent. solution of potassium iodide to 5 cc. of 1 per cent. solution of eucaine hydrochloride, it causes a cloudiness, and after a time the mixture becomes converted into a crystalline paste.

ALTERATION OF ESERINE SOLUTIONS.—M. Parmetier, Centre Med. & Pharm., Oct., '96.

It is well known that salts of eserine are decomposed by contact with the air, becoming yellow, and afterwards red, from formation of rube-serine. In order to diminish the chances of this change in solutions, the author recommends that only pure, dry salts should be used; the water should be distilled and boiled before using, and the solution should be kept in glass-stoppered, colored bottles, and kept in a dark place.

CREOSO-MAGNESOL.—Romeyer & Testevin.—*Union Pharmaceutique*.

Twenty grms. of caustic potash are dissolved in ten grms. of distilled water, and 800 grms.

of beechwood creosote are gradually added, and when thoroughly mixed, 170 grms. of calcined magnesia are added. The mixture is allowed to stand for 36 hours, when it will be found to have acquired a pilular consistence. This mass contains about 80 per cent. of creosote, and is used with advantage in the preparation of creosote pills when mixed with sufficient honey or other suitable excipient.

A DISPENSING DIFFICULTY.—C. E. Robinson, at a recent meeting of the London Chemists' Assistants' Association, drew attention to a peculiar reaction which took place in dispensing the following prescription:

Resorcin 30 grs.
Ammon. mercury 25 "
White vaseline 2 ozs.

If prepared by rubbing down the white precipitate with a little oil and part of the vaseline, and then adding the resorcin dissolved in a little rectified spirit, the ointment turned blue in a few days; but, if the resorcin was finely powdered and not dissolved, the ointment remained white.

AROMATIC SPIRIT OF AMMONIA. H. Wyatt, Chemists' Assistants' Association, Liverpool.

The author has for some time used terpeneless essential oils, and it seemed to him that they could be employed to advantage in the preparation of aromatic spirit of ammonia, and as the result of several experiments he offered the following formula as yielding satisfactory results:

Ammonium carbonate 4 ozs.
Strong solution of ammonia 8 ozs.
Volatile oil of nutmeg 4½ drs.
Concentrated oil of lemon 20 m.
Rectified spirit 117 ozs.
Water to 1 gall.

Dissolve the carbonate in 24 ozs. of warm water, and add the solution of ammonia. Mix the oils with the spirit, and filter into the ammonia, and make up to 1 gallon with distilled water. This preparation is miscible with water.

SODIUM BROMIDE.—M. Conroy, F.C.S., Liverpool Chemists' Assistants' Association.

The author has found that the requirements of the B.P. are too stringent, as he has found it difficult to obtain this salt of the full 98.88 per cent. strength on the market. One reason of this is that this body absorbs from two to five and sometimes ten per cent., of moisture when stored under ordinary conditions.

OTTO OF ROSE.—M. Conroy, F.C.S.

The author finds that the physical constants prescribed are not sufficient to detect adulteration, and chemical tests are no better. The freezing point, according to authorities, should range between 65° F. to 68° F., but this differ-