5th pair, of the frontal, temporal, supra, and infra-orbital nerves, the brachial plexus, the intercostal and ilio-lumbar nerves. Sciatic neuralgia appears to resist, rather more than other neuralgias, the calming effects of this tincture. Dr. Ortille, of Lille, however, succeeded in curing with this remedy a patient who had suffered for a long time from sciatica which resisted all sorts of therapeutic means. The author considers gelseminum to be a powerful sedative in neuralgia, especially in those varieties which are not accompanied by that local fluxion in the affected point. Favourable results have also been seen in hemicrania.—*Medical and Surgical Reporter.*

GRINDELIA ROBUSTA IN WHOOPING-COUGH.—At a recent meeting of the Suffolk District Medical Society, Dr. Pattee called attention to the beneficial effects of the drug in certain pulmonary affections, and remarked that most of the fluid extract sold in this market was said to be worthless. Dr. Pattee had used the tincture in bronchitis, asthma, and whooping-cough, in doses of half a drachm or more, repeated every one or two hours. The effect was said to have been curative in thirty cases of whooping-cough, after three or four days, without the occurrence of relapses. The dose for a child two years old would be about ten drops.

A SUBSTITUTE FOR CALOMEL.—Sulphate of manganese, according to Dr. Goolden, in the *London Lancet* of June 15th, 1878, is a most excellent substitute for mercury in the various bilious troubles. In jaundice, hepatic dropsy, and hypochondriasis it has produced most remarkable results, and in hemorrhoids and in congestion of the fauces and bronchia it has proved no less efficacious. Anæmic patients who cannot take any of the preparations of iron are enabled to take iron with benefit if combined with two to five grains of sulphate of manganese. Its taste is not unlike that of epsom salts, but it is less bitter. Dr. Goolden prefers to administer the manganese in ten grains to a scruple dose, in a glass of water, adding a little citrate of magnesia to cause effervescence. By these doses large bilious dejections are produced. Half a drachm is the utmost dose ever necessary, and ten grains is usually quite sufficient. The larger doses sometimes produce decided though temporary nausea, and this may be avoided by adding a small quantity of epsom salts. Its action is attended by neither griping nor depression; neither the heart's action nor the pulse are altered.

Dr. Goolden has employed this medicine freely in private and hospital practice for more than thirty-five years.—*Medical Brief.*

PYTHON.—The formula for Pharaoh's serpent's eggs has been given so frequently in these columns that we ought to be free from further inquiries respecting them. Dissolve mercury in dilute nitric acid, observing, however, to have an excess of the metal. Decant the solution and pour into it an equal weight of a saturated solution of sulpho-cyanide of ammonium or potassium. Collect the precipitate on a filter, wash and dry. Powder the lump, and with each pound mix an ounce of powdered tragacanth. A mass can be made with water. Note.—This compound is poisonous.

SWEET SPIRIT OF NITRE A SOLVENT IN SALICYLIC ACID.—Dr. Barkly, Ky., writes to the *American Practitioner:* "As the administration of salicylic acid has become so extensive, and as a good solvent is desirable, I wish to make known, through the *Practitioner*, that sweet spirit of nitre is the best solvent. I have been prescribing it nearly two years in the treatment of malarial fevers, with uniform success; in many cases without the use of quinia. I employ this formula:

℞ Salicylic acid, . . . ʒ j.
Sweet spirit of nitre, . . ʒ jv. M.

Sig.—One teaspoonful every two hours, for children; two to four teaspoonfuls for adults.

MECONOIOSINE, A NEW DERIVATIVE FROM OPIUM. (T. and H. Smith.) Announcing the discovery, in opium, of a new *chemically indifferent* body (meconine or opianyl being the only other one of this class present), having the composition $C_8 H_{10} O_2$, and crystallizing in remarkable leaf-like masses, not unlike the incrustation of crystals upon a rock. The authors have named it *Meconoiosine*. When meconine is heated with slightly diluted sulphuric acid and when the evaporation has reached a certain point a beautiful *green* color makes its appearance; under the same circumstances, the new body meconoiosine produces a deep-red solution, afterwards turning purple.

J. A. W. (Baltimore, Md.)—Binoxide of Hydrogen. Thenard's process, that is, the treatment of binoxide of barium with muriatic acid, is still considered the most convenient and, we believe, followed by manufacturers to the present day. For commercial purposes, however, it is not generally necessary to make the product anhydrous, a more or less concentrated watery solution being all that is needed for the *blonde hair dyes* of the period. The process in question is described in all chemical and most pharmaceutical treatises.

AN AMERICAN NATURALIST, while investigating the causes and effect of the poison of a wasp sting, nobly determined to make himself a martyr to science, and accordingly handed his thumb to an impatient insect he had caged in a bottle. The wasp entered into the martyr business with a great deal of spirit, and backed up to the thumb with an abruptness which took the scientist by surprise. He was so deeply absorbed in the study of remedies that he forgot to make any notes, but his wife wrote a paragraph in his note-book, for the benefit of science, that the primary effect of a wasp sting is abrupt and terrific—and such words!

ARTIFICIAL EYES.—Between 8,000 and 10,000 artificial human eyes are sold annually in the United States. The average cost of an eye is $10, and the color for an eye most in demand is what is known as "Irish blue." Christian Hohn, a New York German, makes glass eyes for horses that will defy detection by all except accomplished experts.—*Canada Lancet.*