These directions, if the ointment only contained one of the alkaloids, would be all right, but when both cocaine and atrophine are present as prescribed the atropine is not soluble 1 in 120, and on cooling part of the atrophine is deposited as pasty specks. It is preferable to dissolve the cocaine in vaseline as directed, and then when cool work in the boric acid with which the atropine has been intimately mixed.

13. ℞ Cupri Oleatis..... ʒi.
Lanolini c. Oleo..... ʒi.
Ft. unguentum

When warmed with lanoline (anhydrous) ʒii. the oleate showed signs of reduction, so a new lot was made by dissolving the oleate in ʒv. of olive oil with gentle heat, and then stirring in the lanoline when nearly cold. In this way there were no signs of the yellow cuprous salt in the product.

14. ℞ Hydrarg. Perchlor..... gr. iii.
Ung. Petrolei..... ʒi.
Ft. unguentum.

The irritating effect of even minute particles of perchloride of mercury on the skin being borne in mind, a solution of this salt was made in 30 minims of S.V.R., 1 fluid drachm of castor oil was mixed with this, and then the liquid mixed with the unguentum petrolei on a slab with the point of a bone spatula.

15. ℞ Zinci Oxidi,
Amyli Pulv.....aa ʒss.
Acidi Salicylici... ... gr. x.
Adipis Lanæ Hydros.
Paraffin Mollis.....aa ʒss.
Olei Lavandulæ..... q.s. (mvi.)
M. fiat. unguentum.

On keeping this seemed to become rather lumpy in places, and as this was most likely the effect of the action of the salicylic acid on the zinc oxide in the presence of the water from the hydrous wool fat forming zinc salicylate, the following *modus operandi* was adopted: The acid was rubbed down with 1 drachm of zinc oxide, then 80 minims of water were added and well mixed. To this an ointment, made by rubbing the rest of the powders fine, mixing with paraffinum album molle and adeps lanæ (anhydrous), 170 grains, melted together, was next added, and finally the perfume, mixing well. The object of using the zinc oxide, salicylic acid, and water rubbed together is to form the zinc salicylate at once, and so prevent any further change in the ointment.

16. ℞ Resorcin. ..... ʒi.
Ung. Chrysarobini..... ʒss.
Ft. unguentum.

The resorcin must be powdered fine and added to the unguentum chrysarobini in the cold, for, the resorcin being soluble in oils about 1 in 20, if heat were used the excess would crystallize out on cooling. I have noticed that when chrysarobin and resorcin are melted together in the proportion of 5 and 1 the mixture melts at a lower temperature than does chrysarobin alone, and that an ointment made with the mixture is smoother and easier made than when chrysarobin is there by itself. Phenol has also a solvent effect on chrysarobin.

17. ℞ Acid. Carbol. Pur..... ʒi.
Paraffin. Liquid. Alb... ad ʒii.
M. Fiat oleum.

The relative insolubility of carbolic acid in paraffin ointment, as pointed out by C. F. Henry, gave an indication that this oil would not keep in solution the amount of phenol ordered. This opinion was justified on experiment, for fully half the phenol separated on cooling. On communication with the doctor olive oil was ordered instead of the liquid paraffin.

PILLS.

18. ℞ Argent. Oxidi ..... gr. ix.
Ext. Gentianæ, q.s. ut hat massa,
divide in pil..... xii.

The oxide was massed with resin ointment, and then the ext. gentianæ, made into pilular consistence with powdered gentian, was added to bring the pills up to 2 grains each. By this means the action of the extract on the oxide was obviated as far as possible.

19. ℞ Exalgin. .... gr. ii.
Phenacetin .... gr. iii.
Flat pulvis. Mitte, xii.

When rubbed together these powders gave off a persistent odour of valerianic acid, though separately neither the exalgin nor phenacetin had any smell. A possible explanation is that one of these bodies had been crystallised from amylic alcohol solution, and that traces of this locked up in the crystals either mechanically or as "alcohol of crystallisation" had become oxidised to valerianic acid or some similar compound.—*Pharm. Journ. (Eng.).*

Fatigue and the Nervous System.—An Italian physician, after experiments, shows that twenty-four bicycle riders who had ridden thirty-two miles in two and a-quarter hours, suffered from defective hearing. Two hours' rest, however, happily repaired the injuries.

A bottle of rice paper, coated inside and out with Japanese lacquer, is recommended by Professor Jacobson as better than rubber bottles or ice bags for the sick-room.

Camphor in Florida

The State of Florida bids fair to become a most important centre for the production of camphor in the near future.

Supplies of camphor have heretofore come from China, Japan and Formosa, but of the vast camphor forests that once existed in these countries but a small portion remains, and this is the direct result of the wanton waste in the process practised there for obtaining the gum from the tree Camphor is usually obtained by boiling the chips of the wood and roots and bark in great kettles with water, and condensing the volatized gum on rushes suspended over the kettles.

In this process the entire tree is cut down, and even the roots dug up, but in Florida it was found that the gum could be commercially produced from the leaves and twigs, seventy-seven pounds of which yield one pound of gum. Hence the bearing tree need not be disturbed or injured in any way, as the foliage it bears is very dense, and may be thinned down one-half without scarcely being noticed. This tree, besides, bears a very great amount of pruning without injury. It is an evergreen, and makes three growths a year, in April, June and October.

The tree removes nothing from the soil, the gum being formed entirely from the gases of the atmosphere, and hence the leaves, when deprived of their camphor and returned to the soil, constantly enrich the soil, which, in time, requires no fertilization whatever. Aside from its commercial uses, the camphor tree is one of the most ornamental ever cultivated, its beautiful shape being equalled by the arborvitæ only.

Its lower branches lie on the ground, while the top forms a perfect cone. The flowers are small, but exceedingly pretty, while the leaves are a beautiful pale, glossy green color.—*Scientific American.*

Deafness.—According to a medical authority one person in three is partially deaf between the ages of ten and forty. The origin of this is said to be heredity. Deafness afflicts the males mostly, as they are most exposed to the variations of climate. The use of the telephone is supposed to induce deafness.

Dr. W. D. Turner says lard is a certain antidote to strychnia.