

A FATAL "LAPSUS CALAMI."—A physician of Sangerhausen, in Thuringia, having occasion to prescribe for sleeplessness in an hysterical patient, wrote the following prescription:—"Chlorhydr. 15.0, tinct. opii 15, aquæ 60.0; M. A. third part to be administered in the evening as an enema." The patient died, and a prosecution was instituted against the physician and the apothecary who dispensed his prescription. A *lapsus calami* had been committed on the part of the former, who omitted to put "gtt." after the "tinct. opii 15." The prescription was made up by a young unqualified pupil, who read the 15 to signify *grammes*, as the 15 of the chloral and the 60 of the water obviously did. A properly educated apothecary would have taken the prescription to the physician before dispensing it. The Court sentenced the physician to one month's imprisonment, the apothecary to two months', and his pupil to three months'.—(*Chemist and Druggist*.)

IMITATION EBONY.—To turn oak black, so as to cause it to resemble ebony, the wood is immersed for forty-eight hours in a hot saturated solution of alum, and then brushed over several times with a logwood decoction prepared as follows: Boil one part of best logwood with ten parts of water, filter through linen, and evaporate at a gentle heat until the volume is reduced one half. To every quarter of this add from ten to fifteen drops of a saturated solution of indigo, completely neutral. After applying this dye to the wood, rub the latter with a saturated and filtered solution of verdigris in hot concentrated acetic acid, and repeat the operation until a black of the desired intensity is obtained. Oak thus stained is said to be as close as well as handsome imitation of ebony.—*Am. Cabinetmaker*.

SHAMOY LEATHER.—Shamoy skins are, every one knows, largely used for many purposes—for inside linings of gloves, etc., and for cleaning purposes in many departments. It is not derived from the skin of the chamois, but from the flesh side of the sheepskin which have been spilt. The skins, after having been passed in the ordinary way through the earlier processes of washing, etc., are soaked, first in lime-water, and next in a mixture of bran and water, or in a weak solution of sulphuric acid, after which they are beaten in a mill till no moisture remains in them. Fish oil is then poured over the skins which are again beaten till they are thoroughly impregnated with it. This is done over and over again until the skins can receive no more oil, and then they are hung for a short time in a room heated up to certain temperature. They are then carefully washed in a solution of potash, which removes any oil that may still remain about the leather; and thus we have the shamoy skin in daily use.—*Druggists' Circular*.

GINGER.—The cultivation of ginger has been commenced in California with good prospects of success.

A LEECH BAROMETER.—The following is a simple way of making a "leech barometer." Take an

eighth ounce phial, and put in it three gills of water and a healthy leech, changing the water in summer once a week, and in winter once a fortnight. If the weather is to be fine the leech lies motionless at the bottom of the glass, and coiled together in a spiral form; if rain may be expected, it will creep up to the top of its lodgings, and remain there until the weather is settled; if we are to have wind it will move through its habitation with amazing swiftness, and seldom goes to rest until a high wind begins; if a remarkable storm of thunder and rain is to succeed, the leech will remain for some days before almost continually out of water, and show great uneasiness in violent throes and convulsive-like movements. In frost, as in clear summer-like weather, the leech lies constantly at the bottom; and in snow, as in rainy weather, it moves to the very mouth of the pail. The top should be covered with a piece of muslin.—EDWIN S. CLOUTMAN in *Scientific American*.

"The last dose from a bottle containing a mixture of strychnia and bromide of potassium," says the *Detroit Medical Journal*, "poisoned the patient. The bromide had precipitated the strychnia."—*Boston Med. and Surg. Jour.*

EUCALYPTUS OIL.—Mr. M. H. Llewellyn, writing to the *Melburn Medical Record*, says that he has found eucalyptus oil very useful in repelling the attacks of flies. It may be partially saponified by heating on the water-bath an ounce of oil with two or three drachms of carbonate of soda. This quantity will then dissolve in a quart of water. It may also be dissolved in rectified spirits, and used as a face lotion or as spray in the sick room. As long as the scent remains no Australian fly will approach.—*London Medical Record*.

THE ALBO-CARBON LIGHT—Is a new candidate for public favor, and lays claim to superiority over any light of modern introduction. The material used is carboline, a very inexpensive solid substance produced from gas residuals, which gives off a vapor of almost pure carbon, and this being combined with the light of ordinary gas, increases the illuminating power of the gas some 200 per cent. The new light is very brilliant, and has no influence on colors. For the interior illumination of large public buildings, warehouses, &c., and for shop windows the Albo-Carbon Light is especially suitable. Where sun or ceiling lights are already in use this process may be applied to them at a comparatively small outlay, by a very slight alteration of existing arrangements, dispensing at once with half the burners. For factories, foundries, warehouses, printing offices, workshops, &c., special fixtures have been designed of a less expensive character. The amount required for each thousand cubic feet consumed is 5 lbs., costing 1s.; or $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., costing 1½d., is sufficient for one burner for 40 hours (practically a week's supply). The offices and works of the company are at 132 Horseferry Road, Westminster, S. W.—(*Chemist and Druggist*).