

from 10 to 92 per cent. of pure cream tartar, the adulterations consisting of tartrate of lime and terra alba. He also told how one could go to stores in New York, where he would be taken into a room in which a sample table is set with different grades of terra alba. One, you are told, will make a beautiful, bright cream tartar, another a dull one, and so on, from one end of the table to the other, each having a particular use.—*Med. and Surg. Rep.*

CASTOR OIL BEANS are now grown as a crop in the United States. In one western county alone 2,773 acres were laid down in it last year, the average crop being 12 to 15 bushels per acre. A bushel of good seed is said to yield there about $2\frac{1}{2}$ gallons of oil.

A NEW STIMULANT.—The *British Medical Journal* gives a long account of a new stimulant which has lately been described by the papers of Australia. It is called pitcherine by the natives, and is used by them as we use tobacco, both for smoking and chewing. Its effect is that of a pleasant exhilaration; when long continued, intense and continuous excitement follows. It is used when on long foot journeys to invigorate and keep up the strength, or excite them to courage in battle; large doses are said to infuriate all the passions. Some of the natives make a plaster of the plant and place it back of the ears, believing they are influenced by it.

THE KORONICO PLANT.—John Arthur Francis indorses statements recently made in an English journal with regard to the value of the koronico plant of New Zealand (a species of broom) as an astringent, and the value of its employment in appropriate cases of diarrhoea. He says that it is an old and well-known remedy among the Maories and up-country shepherds, especially for intestinal disturbances arising from drinking stagnant swamp-water in dry seasons. The usual mode of using it is by making a strong infusion of the young leaves.

ENGLISH EARTH is the name given in America to terra alba or plaster of Paris, of which, according to an exchange, "tons upon tons are imported for the express purpose of adulterating white powders of various kinds, notably cream of tartar."

ADULTERATED SODA.—Mr. J. H. Swindells writes to the *Chemical News* to say that he has found all the samples of Scotch or bastard soda or washing soda which he has examined to be nothing more than sulphate of soda.

ESSENCE LEMOINE.—Watchmakers' oil—is made by distilling from a water bath a mixture of 200 parts coal-tar benzin, 10 parts lavender oil, 5 parts bergamot oil. It must be carefully protected from air and sun-light. Our watchmakers use the benzine of commerce.—*Hager.*

THE EUCALYPTUS IN ALGERIA.—Consul-General Playfair writes: "Formerly it was impossible for the workmen at the great iron mines of Mokta-el-Hadid to remain there during the summer; those who attempted to do so died, and the company was obliged to take the laborers to and from the mines every morning and evening, 33 kilos each way. From 1868 to 1870 the company planted more than 100,000 Eucalyptus trees, and now the workmen are able to live all the year through at the scene of their labors.

POISONING BY SALICYLIC ACID.—A case is reported from Wreschen, in Prussia, where a patient suffering from acute rheumatism was poisoned by impure and partially decomposed salicylic acid. After the first dose of about 12 grains he began to perspire very freely; the perspiration increased with two more succeeding doses, and after the fourth dose violent headache and vomiting supervened, followed by coma and death.—*New Remedies.*

HOMOEOPATHIC CURE FOR THE OPIUM HABIT.—Dr. J. H. Haynes, M.D., of Pittsburg, Pa., has published his method of cure in the *American Homoeopathist*, in an article reprinted in the *Monthly Homoeopathic Review*. The case, given in details is of a woman who had taken morphia for fifteen years, during the last five of which her daily dose had been two grains. Her treatment was as follows: Morphia was strictly forbidden. *Ipecac* tincture, 30 m., was mixed with one-half glass of water, and a teaspoonful was ordered to be taken every hour, or less frequently if it should nauseate. Three days after the commencement of the treatment the patient would hardly take morphia, even if allowed, and since that time, now five years ago, the desire for it has never once returned. Dr. Haynes says that he has treated forty cases in the same way, giving 1-5 for each grain of morphia, or its equivalent of opium in the daily dose. In two cases only has he failed, in both of which his patients continued to take the drug secretly while under treatment.

TEMPERATURE OF FLAMES.—F. Rosetti finds the temperatures of the flame of the Bunsen burner to be: In the external envelope, 1,350°; in the violet portion, 1,250°; in the blue, 1,200°.

MATE AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR TEA AND COFFEE.—Mr. O'Oonor, of the British Legation in Brazil, calls attention, in a recent official report, to yerba maté, an article largely cultivated in the province of Parana, and exported to neighboring South American countries, but hitherto not on the list of exports. He says it is more fortifying and alimentary than either tea or coffee, and much more wholesome, and can be sold at a price so moderate as to place it within the reach of all classes. He states that the Minister of Agriculture has appropriated a