

BITES AND STINGS OF INSECTS.—In a recent issue of the *British Medical Journal*, Dr. W. H. Taylor calls attention to the fact that the irritation caused by the bites and stings of many insects may be almost immediately allayed by the application of the oil of lavender. Remembrance of this may prove useful to most practitioners.

COPPER IN OLIVE OIL.—Olive oil (says Hager's *Pharmaceutische Central Halle*) is often artificially coloured, and sometimes with copper salts. To detect this latter, Cailletet suggests that $\frac{1}{16}$ th grm. pyrogallic acid dissolved in 5 c. c. ether be shaken with 10 c.c. of the oil. If copper be present, a brown colour will result.—*Chemist and Druggist*.

BORAX AND STARCH.—"Polaris" says in the *English Mechanic* that the addition of a very little borax to starch mucilage will make it as fluid as water.

GURJON OIL IN GONORRHOEA.—Vidal now employs gurjon oil as a substitute for copaiba in gonorrhoea. It produces no eruption, acts more promptly and does not taint the breath, as does copaiba. He administers about one drachm in the twenty-four hours.

GALLIUM.—M. Lecoq de Boisbaudran has informed the Académie des Sciences that he has prepared several salts of gallium, and that he has determined the atomic weight of this metal to be 69.9.

BOTANICAL STUDENTS.—A relative of the late owner of the Villa Muret and its magnificent gardens at Antibes, near Cannes, has presented to the French nation this valuable property. It is to be maintained as a sort of laboratory for working botanists, at the expense of the government. There is an excellent herbarium, microscopes, a library, and everything the student requires; free lodging, too, will be given for six weeks to any botanist who wishes to avail himself of the resources offered. The offer is open to botanists of all nations. A recommendation from some known man of science is only required.—*Chemist and Druggist*.

LIQUID CHMPHOR.—M. Wreden announces that he has converted ordinary camphor into a liquid isomer by the action of dilute hydrochloric acid at 190°. The new compound boils at 187° to 193°. Its sp. gr. equals 0.913, and it does not crystallize at a temperature of—17° (*Chemist and Druggist*).

DETECTION OF ALCOHOL IN ESSENTIAL OILS.—The *Apotheker Zeitung* publishes a simple method for accomplishing this purpose. A carefully graduated tube is half filled with pure anhydrous glycerine. It is then filled up with the oil to be tested, and well shaken. After standing, any increase in the volume of the glycerine corresponds to the proportion of alcohol contained in the oil. The test is based on the fact that anhydrous glycerine dissolves alcohol, but not essential oils.

GLEANINGS FROM THE FOREIGN JOURNALS.—Tasteless tannate of quinia is prepared by P. J. Haaxman by dissolving 1 part quinia sulphate in acidulated

distilled water, and precipitating the alkaloid with soda solution, dissolving it in 10 parts alcohol, sp. gr. .882, and diluting this solution with warm water so as to remain clear while in the water-bath. This liquid is added gradually, and with continued stirring, to a solution of 3 parts tannin in 60 parts distilled water, the mixture thrown upon a filter, and the precipitate washed with warm water until the filtrate is colorless and free from astringent taste, whereby the bitter acid tannate is decomposed and the tasteless neutral tannate left upon the filter.—*Jour. Pharm. Chim.*, 4th ser., xxv. p. 420. *Am. Jour. Pharm.*

The best local anæsthetic for dental operations is said to be the extract of eucalyptus. Apply one drop on cotton to the sensitive dentine just before excavating.—*Boston Med. and Surg. Jour.*

PLANTAGO MAJOR is said to be a sure cure for toothache. Smartweed is highly recommended for dysentery, watery and mucous diarrhoea, etc. Mr. Hayes, of Dublin, speaks highly of iodoform in granular lids, phlyctenular and pustular ophthalmia, corneal ulceration, obstinate keratitis, ciliary blepharitis, etc., used in form of fine powder dusted on eye; in some cases using a salve, 1 pt. iodoform, 4 pts. vaseline. The French assert that tobacco often causes diseases of the ear and deafness. A case is reported in Paris, of a carious tooth, causing coma and high temperature, and finally death. (*Eclectic Med. Journal*).

CHRYSOPHANIC ACID, a remedy which is now coming into use in skin diseases—particularly ring-worm—should be employed with caution, and patients should be warned accordingly. If ever so small a portion of the acid, or ointment, comes in contact with the eye, intense irritation, accompanied by dilatation of the pupil, is produced. The inflammation subsides after a few days, but while it lasts is very painful.

EXCIPIENT FOR QUININE PILLS.—Mr. J. E. Brett (*Am. Jour. Pharm.*), thinks that quinine pills may be best made by mixing a small quantity of pulv. acaciæ with the quinine, and then adding glycerine, drop by drop, triturating well until a smooth mass is obtained. Pills made from this mass are said to be unalterable.

TO RESTORE RANCID OIL OF LEMON, wash it with an equal volume of boiling distilled water, shake it occasionally until it is cool, and pour off the oil, or separate it with a siphon. If necessary, repeat the operation. Oil as strong as turpentine has thus been made sweet again by this process. (*Druggists Circular*).

A DOCTOR received by mistake as his fee, a couple of mint lozenges rolled up in paper. The gentleman, meeting the doctor next day, and having detected his mistake in the meantime, asked him jocularly how he liked his fee. "Oh, it was very sweet," was the reply. The real fee was remitted on the next day with the following accompaniment:

"The fee was sweet"—I thank you for the hint. These are as sweet; they've both been through the Mint.