

of Botany Bay. This product is derived from a native Australian plant, *Xanthorrhœa arborea*, and can be obtained at a low price. The resin is treated with dilute nitric acid, and digested at a gentle heat. On cooling, the acid crystallizes out. The yield is about 50 per cent.

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THIRD ALKALOID IN HYDRASTIS CANADENSIS.—Mr. J. C. Burt (*Am. Jour. Pharm.*) reports experiments confirmatory of the existence of a third alkaloid in hydrastis, as pointed out by Mr. Hall (*Am. Jour. Pharm.*, xlv. 247, and this Journal, vol. iv. 442): a number of reactions are given by the author. The sulphate crystallizes in radiate clusters of prismatic needles, which are colorless. The alkaloid is present in smaller proportion than either berberina or hydrastia.

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ELIXIR OF BEEF AND IRON.—A correspondent, "Blue Pill," sends the following formula. Liebig's ext. meat, 1 oz.; boiling water, 2 oz.; dissolve. Pyrophosphate of iron, 2 oz.; boiling water, 4 oz.; dissolve. White sugar, 2 oz.; sherry, one pint; dissolve. Mix the three solutions together. Dose—a fluid drachm three times a day.

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## Students' Department.

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Answers to the following questions must be sent in so as to be received by the editor before the twentieth of each month. Competitors must be engaged in the drug business, not being proprietors or having passed examination, and must furnish, with the answers sent, their real names and addresses. Answers to each of the questions must be written on *separate sheets* or slips of paper, and must be followed by the name and address of the competitor. It is trusted that all answers sent will be the *bona fide* work of competitors, and that no assistance will be sought except such as is afforded by books. Any attempt to copy *verbatim*, or in part, from any published work, will impair or altogether nullify any value which might otherwise have been assigned to such answer.

The same competitor may not carry off more than one First Prize and one Second Prize during the term of six months.

Answers requiring calculation and involving fractions must be given in decimals, which need not be carried beyond the third place.

The following books are offered this month as prizes: