

fact, there hangs in the counting-house in Oxford street an engraving, published in 1842, of a water color drawing by W. Hunt, representing the interior of the old laboratory, with a porter named Simmons as the central figure, actually engaged in stirring a batch of nitrate of mercury ointment, as witnessed by the label. It is, moreover, traditional that the same John Simmons was permitted by Jacob Bell to take a fee of half-a-crown from each assistant whom he initiated into the mystery of making the ointment.

UNGUENTUM PICIS.

	Parts.
Take of—	
Stockholm Tar.....	4
Hard Paraffin.....	1
Mix together and stir until nearly cold.	

UNGUENTUM RESINÆ.

	Parts.
Take of—	
Resin.....	8
Yellow Wax.....	4
Hard Paraffin.....	3
Soft ".....	15

Melt the resin, yellow wax, and hard paraffin; add the soft paraffin, and stir until cold.

—*Phar. Journal (Eng.)*.

A New Asiatic Remedy.

Among the most noted plants employed medicinally in parts of Asia in cases of hydrophobia, leprosy, snake bite, etc., is the hoangnan, a plant placed by botanists among the strychnicæ. M. Svessterteur, as illustrating its efficacy, gives an account of the cure, in Tonquin, of the bite of the black viper by means of this plant, and two cases of the cure of the bite of the cobra de capella, in India, the bite of which reptile, he asserts, means simply death within half an hour. Further, M. Féron, of India, gives the case of a boy, seventeen years of age, who was bitten on the heel by a cobra, the lad's leg in a few minutes becoming swollen up as far as the thigh, in less than ten minutes his sight being completely gone. The first three pills restored his sight and reduced the swelling of the leg to below the knee, two more reducing it to the sole of the foot. At the end of half an hour no pain was felt, except that which was occasioned by the lesion of the tendon Achilles, this pain disappearing gradually and entirely as the wound proceeded to cicatrization.—*Public Health Journal*.

IODOTHYRIN.—This is a more correct name for thyroiodin.

SPINOL.—A syrupy, brown liquid of a peculiar odor and disagreeable taste, which is very stable and undergoing no changes even after a considerable period of time.

SUNOFORM.—This is the name applied to the methylic ether of diiodosalicylic acid which is obtained by acting upon essence of wintergreen or salicylate of methyl with iodine.

New Foreign Pharmacopœias.

THE RUSSIAN PHARMACOPŒIA.—The fifth edition of the Russian Pharmacopœia will probably be published quite shortly. Its editing has been entrusted to a special commission, which has recently caused to be issued to all pharmaceutical and medical societies and persons of medical note in the empire, proof-sheets of the list of articles which it is proposed to incorporate in the new pharmacopœia. It is understood that no fewer than 218 preparations mentioned in the present edition of the work are to be eliminated in the new issue. The reason of this is that the Russian pharmacist, like most of his continental brethren, is compelled by law to keep in stock all articles mentioned in the pharmacopœia, and that this has been found a heavy burden upon the smaller chemists. The principle has been adopted to incorporate only those newer remedies of which the value has been proved by very long practical experience, and which have come into general use.

THE BELGIAN PHARMACOPŒIA.—A new supplement to the Belgian Pharmacopœia was to have been published on January 31st, but the pharmacists, who are charged with the editing of the work, have not finished their duties in time. The Belgian Minister of Agriculture, who appears to look after pharmacopœial matters also, has now extended the time for preparing the supplement to May 1st. The Belgian Pharmacopœia itself is also in process of revision.—*Chemist and Druggist*.

Bleaching Wax and Stearin.

The natural method of bleaching, which still remains the best, and of all others alone preserves the natural characteristic aroma in beeswax, lies under the single disability of taking up a considerable time in its performance. There is, it is true, a possibility of shortening the process by the employment of ozone for the artificial enrichment of the bleaching atmosphere, but this has only an insignificant influence unless care is taken to preserve the wax in a certain condition of moisture. To supply this ozone we may proceed by atomizing oil of turpentine, or by making use of the electric current. Still, even under these circumstances, the bleaching process may be protracted for some weeks, or even months; so that the advantages of a chemical process capable of rendering the wax perfectly white in twenty-four hours cannot be overlooked, although the attempts hitherto made to perfume the bleached wax by the addition of a small quantity of the unrefined substance, or an artificial oil ("wax oil") have proved unsuccessful.

From a close investigation into the natural method of bleaching it appears that the duration of the process is influenced by the following factors: The percentage

of water in the wax; the moisture of the air; the surface of the wax; the temperature, and the light. Perfectly dry wax takes twice as long to bleach as that containing from two to five per cent. of water, whilst on the other hand, air laden with moisture will only bleach four times more slowly than if quite dry. The most favourable temperature is 35° C., though the operation can be effected at as low as 20° C. Diffused sunlight (full daylight) is almost as effective as the direct rays of the sun. The most important factor, however, is the amount of exposed surface, which should be as large as possible. To this end the crude wax may be melted and run into laminae of one-fifth to one-eighth of an inch in thickness; or, better still, made up into an emulsion with water at 60° to 80° C. in a Laval emulsifier, and poured out into cold water, by which means it is obtained in the form of extremely small granules. It is also found that the presence of bleached wax in the crude wax expedites the bleaching of the latter considerably.

By utilizing all these discoveries, viz., melting 50 per cent. of bleached wax with the crude mass, emulsifying and pouring out into cold water containing a little oil of turpentine, the bleaching process can be shortened to forty-eight hours.

By the aid of the emulsifier wax can be chemically bleached in ten minutes. To accomplish this, the wax is emulsified with slightly-alkaline water at 80° C., and, after exposing the emulsion to the action of sodium hypo-chlorite for ten minutes, a slight excess of hydro-chloric acid is added, the wax being finally washed with warm water in the apparatus. The product is, however, inodorous and brittle.

Stearin behaves exactly like wax under the natural bleaching process, and the chemical method is also applicable to Japan and Carnuba wax.—*Chemiker Zeitung*.

Heart Strain in Cycling.

It is to be regretted that bicyclists are often seen riding with open mouth. The evils of mouth-breathing are accentuated under such conditions, and it is well to note the cause. With some, this pernicious habit was fixed in childhood. But when it is observed only after exercise, such as bicycling, it indicates that the heart and lungs have been subjected to undue strain, which should not be repeated. Medical experience affirms that so long as the cyclist can breathe freely with the mouth closed he is safe, at least so far as heart strain is concerned.—*Public Health Journal*.

UNUSOL.—This is chemically iodine resorcin sulphonate of bismuth which is principally employed for suppositories in hemorrhoids.

MALARIN.—A new antipyretic which results from the condensation of acetophenone and phenetidine. It is met with in commerce as a citrate.