

the name of gallicin. It is readily soluble in hot water, alcohol, or ether. It is non-poisonous, and has yielded some good results in catarrhal affections of the eyes. It is used as an eye powder by means of a camel's hair pencil. Citrophene is a compound of citric acid with parphenetidin, and is claimed to be an effective antipyretic and anti-neuralgic. It is a white powder, soluble in about 40 parts of water, and incompatible with either acids or alkalis. It is given in doses of 0.5 gram, and large doses are stated to be harmless. New hematonic preparations are to be seen in corniferrin, which consists of iron in combination with phosphoric acid and ferrum caseinatum, which is obtained by precipitating a solution of calcium caseinate with a slight excess of a 1 per cent. solution of lactate of iron. Cadmium salicylate has been recommended for the treatment of suppurating ophthalmia, and strontium salicylate as an intestinal antiseptic, yielding better results than salol, etc. In doses of 10 to 15 grains, the strontium salt is stated to be very useful in chronic gouty and rheumatic conditions. Avolysine and chlorosalel have been recently described in our columns.

PHARMACY.

The work of revising the British Pharmacopoeia so as to render it of more value in the British colonies is now progressing. A large number of deletions have been published, and a very much smaller number of additions recommended by the English and colonial medical authorities. The committee of pharmacists in whose hands remains the task of devising new and improving old formulas have not suffered from want of advice or suggestions. It is definitely settled that the metric system will be adopted throughout the new edition, but many of the recommendations of medical faddists—such as the desirability of giving therapeutical information, indicating incompatibles, etc.—are receiving scant attention. It is just a question as to how far the Imperial Pharmacopoeia will go in meeting the daily requirements of Canadian pharmacists and physicians, as their advice and assistance were neither asked nor offered. Should it fall short, as under these circumstances it may, some concerted action may be taken in order to produce a Canadian appendix or addendum that would make up the deficiency.

The third edition of the Norwegian Pharmacopoeia has been published, and, although the names of preparations are in Latin, the body of the work is printed in Norwegian. Assay methods are introduced only for cinchona bark, opium, etc., and extracts, tinctures, etc., are not touched. The doses are given by weight in every instance. A supplement has been published to the last (1884) edition of the French Codex, in order to render official a large number of synthetic remedies, such as sulphonal, phenacetin, anti-febrin, etc.

The British Pharmaceutical Conference held a successful meeting at Bournemouth, and the American Pharmaceutical Association attracted large numbers to Denver.

A Pharmacy Fair, under somewhat too pretentious auspices, was attempted at Boston, Mass., but attracted insufficient support, and so had to prematurely close its doors. A drug trade exhibition in London was more successful, and it is stated that it will henceforth be an annual affair. Amongst the large number of papers bearing upon pharmacy that have been published during the year, the following are perhaps worthy of special notice: Ashby recommended sodium nitroprusside, in the presence of ammonia, as a test for methylated tinctures, 25 c.c. of the tincture are distilled, and the first 5 c.c. passing over are tested, and the production of a red color is due to methylated spirit. Bersegee has shown that tincture of lobelia prepared from the herb, previously freed from stems, is considerably stronger in alkaloid and extractive than when the whole herb is used. Barclay stated that the amount of extractive in tinctures varies according to the length of time they have been kept and the extent of the evaporation of spirit. Thus, strong tincture of ginger loses 26 per cent. in about six months. According to Sapin, tincture of iodine should be exposed to the light, as the hydriodic acid and ethyl iodide gradually formed are decomposed by light, with liberation of iodine again. The tincture kept in the dark for a year had lost nearly 20 per cent. of its iodine. Bird suggested an acetic extract of ipecacuanha, prepared by exhausting the drug first with acidulated spirit, and then with water. The two percolates are evaporated to dryness and then mixed. Fluid extract of cubebs, as found in American pharmacies, is stated by Hyers to vary considerably, and indicates that poor cubebs are used, or extraction is not perfect. Dillenbach suggested a menstruum of glycerine one part, water two parts, to obtain fluid extract of wild cherry (ext. pruni virg. fluid), using repercolation. M. Jurgens has given two methods for preparing fluid extract of grindelia. The first is free from resin, as the extract is obtained by hot water, and the second is obtained by percolation with three parts of strong spirit and one of water. Cripps has made a study of standardization of belladonna preparations, and recommends an alcoholic liquid extract to be standardized, and this to form the basis for plaster, liniment, tincture, ointment, etc. Boa considers that the present belladonna plaster might be improved by using the following proportions: resin, 5; card soap, 2; lead plaster, 11; alcoholic extract of belladonna, 2.

Carbolic acid should be kept in aluminium or tin vessels, according to Von Hankö, as less liable to coloration. Aromatic elixir of kola is best prepared with glycyrrhizin and saccharin, in simple elixir of the strength one in ten. Glycerine suppositories made from agar-agar are

said by Lomuller to be more elegant than when made with gelatine as the basis. A German method of making pills of creosotes, guaiacol, etc., is to mix with liquorice powder and mass with glycerine. From the same source emanates the suggestion of peppermint water and syrup to mask the flavor of ichthyol, when given internally. Harding prepares milk of magnesia by precipitating the hydrate by means of hot dilute solutions of caustic potash and magnesium sulphate. The precipitate is washed and suspended in a small quantity of water.

PHARMACOLOGY.

There has been no diminution in the published researches of last year relating to minor drugs.

Prescott has described some of the native drugs of the Philippine Islands. Dunstan has discovered the active principle—a crystallizable resin, of pellitory. Sanctis proved that conine exists in the stems and leaves of the elder (*Sambucus nigra*). The recommendation of senecio vulgaris by Murrell, as a remedy for diseases of the uterine system, has probably led Grandval and Lajoux to examine its constituents. Two alkaloids have been obtained, senecine and senecionine. Cannabis indica and C. sativa have been investigated by Vignolo, and the alkaloid from the latter found almost inactive, whilst the former yields a product that is highly toxic. The same author has obtained a sesquiterpene from the essential oil of Indian hemp. Palladino claims to have discovered a new alkaloid in coffee, which he has named caffeine. Dohme has shown that jaborandi leaves, as now found in commerce, are much inferior in pilocarpine to what they were in 1893, and to this is due the high price of the alkaloid. Ergot is still in an unsatisfactory state, and Keller can only obtain one alkaloid from it. Bohringer has described, however, a new active principle of ergot, under the name of spasmotuo, or sphacelotoxin. The structure of emicifuga and that of veratrum viride have been minutely described by Bastin. The histology of ipecacuanha has been the subject of Greenwich's investigation, whilst he has also reported upon the microscopical examination of commercial powdered ipecacuanha. Pfaff and Orr ascribe the active principle of rhus toxicodendron to a principle similar to cardol, and state that Marsch's toxicodendric acid is inactive.

The adulteration of kamala with morgamie matter to the extent of 69 per cent. was reported by Barclay. Cubebs and its adulterations have been lengthily described by Wevre. Senega is also subject to sophistication with the roots of *Triostemum perfoliatum*, which does not possess the characteristic keel. The leaves of *Empleurum serrulatum* have appeared in bales of buchu leaves, and a chemical examination by Umney showed that they differ in composition. Balsams of tolu and Peru have been found adulterated, and beeswax has been the subject of an