

atropia, the dose may be included in a morsel a sixteenth of an inch square and of a thickness which requires the second decimal place to express its value in inches. It is obvious that these preparations have many useful characters. An emigrant setting out for the backwoods may carry with him, in a pocket book no larger than a lady's card case, two dozen doses of as many different drugs. A doctor, starting on his rounds, may have in his waistcoat pocket blisters, narcotics, emetics, atropine for dilating, and eserine for contracting the pupil of the eye. The traveller may carry with him in all his wanderings a thousand of the daily doses he needs to retain his health. In neither case are there bottles to be broken, or powders or liquids to be weighed or measured or to deteriorate in changes of climate. Many physicians now order medicines containing but one ingredient. It is quite possible that the next generation will look on such preparations as tinct. camph. co. as scornfully as we regard the mithridates, and, as simplicity is more largely adopted, so will these preparations become more popular. That the preparations are very elegant this case is a most convincing proof, and when we first inspected them we were astonished at the number of drugs which had already been prepared in this form. The *Lamellæ cantharidis* deserve a special note. This blistering gelatine is in sheets which can be easily cut to the required size. When applied it is almost entirely absorbed by the skin, very little has to be removed, so that one of the most painful features of the ordinary blister is much modified. For cleanliness these "*lamellæ*" bear the same relation to the common application that mustard papers bear to mustard plasters.—*Chemist and Druggist*.

CINCHONA AND IRON-SALTS.—Catillon remarks in *Repertoire de Pharmacie*, that the well-known discoloration of a mixture of syrup or wine of cinchona with iron-salts—with iodide of iron, for instance—which is owing to the formation of a tannate of iron, may be entirely prevented by dissolving alcoholic extract of cinchona in pure glycerin, and adding to it the iron-salt likewise dissolved in glycerin. The mixture remains clear, and has the characteristic tint of cinchona.

THE PROVINCE OF CARUBAYA, one of the richest, though most inaccessible parts of Peru, and the source, formerly, from which much calisaya bark was derived, is now being examined by government engineers with a view to improve the lines of communication.

H. P. (Lehigh, Pa.).—**POROUS PLASTERS HAVING LOST THEIR ADHESIVENESS** can be restored, it is said, by the application of oil of turpentine with gentle warming. Sometimes it is necessary to renew the operation two or three times.

KOUMISS.—*Chloral (Bloomington, Ill.)* favours us with the following receipt, which he has found to give a satisfactory product of uniform quality: "Take quart champagne bottles, put into each two ounces of fresh yeast and one half ounce of powdered sugar, and fill them with fresh skimmed milk, cork the bottles tightly, and tie the corks with stout cord. Let them stand in a warm place until the liquid begins to thicken, then lay them on the side in the cellar for about a week, and you will have a splendid article of fresh Koumiss. In using fresh skimmed milk, you are relieved of a large percentage of casein.

THE EFFECT OF GLYCERINE ON FERMENTATION.—It may be useful to the practical pharmacist who is in the habit of manufacturing proprietary articles of his own, and particularly lotions for external use, to be reminded that glycerine has a remarkable effect in retarding decomposition. There is a short note in the *Chemical Journal*, giving in abstract the opinion of J. Munk upon this subject. The theory suggested is quite new to us, though the practice has long since been introduced into laboratory work. He states that glycerine retards the lactic and alcoholic fermentations. One-fifth of glycerine added to milk, at a temperature of 15° to 20° C., prevented it from turning sour for eight or ten days. One-half or one-third of glycerine, at the same temperature, postponed the fermentation of milk for six or seven weeks. At higher temperatures, larger quantities are needed to produce the same results. We are quite prepared to accept the statement; and, with respect to the next remark, we can add personal testimony—namely, that the formation of hydrocyanic acid from amygdalin and emulsin is also retarded by glycerine. It is not unusual to add a small quantity to the trade preparation called milk of roses, and the preservation of almond paste is aided by the same means. Several fluid extracts, non-official, may be treated thus. With regard to cosmetics generally, the employment of glycerine in very small proportions may be recommended.

BROMHYDRIC ACID IN TINNITUS AURIUM FROM QUININE, ETC.—This acid affords an excellent means of stopping that ringing of the ears which is often such a disagreeable accompaniment to the injection of quinine. It also exercises a not less favorable influence upon other noises, particularly those of a pulsatile character, which give, for example, the sensation of hammering. If vertigo is present, the bromhydric acid neutralizes that also. The dose is fifteen drops in a little water every fifteen minutes.—*Presse Med. Chir. de Pesth*.

THE EUCALYPTUS AS AN INSECTICIDE.—In a letter to the *Illustration Horticole* M. Baltet says: "Lately my brother-in-law, Captain Mignard, being very much disturbed in his sleep by mosquitoes, took it into his head to place a young plant of eucalyptus in his bed-room over night. From that moment the insects disappeared, and he slept in comfort. I have been following his example with the same result."