

### Antiseptic Soap.

The attempt has often been made to prepare antiseptic soaps, for medicinal as well as for toilet purposes. Up to now these soaps have not, however, come into general use. There are several reasons for this, as follows: 1. The antiseptic substances that have been proposed for the introduction into soap are frequently difficult to apply, owing either to their acid reaction, or to the double decomposition which they are able to produce with the margarates and the oleates of soda; on this ground the majority of the mineral salts are excluded. 2. The substances may have a peculiar odor, often far from agreeable, which is communicated to the soap and to the hands and clothes washed with it; this is the case with phenol, creasote, etc. 3. The antiseptic substance may also be poisonous, as in the case of the salts of mercury, so that soap containing it might occasion deplorable accidents. 4. Sometimes an antiseptic, though free from the above faults, in time decomposes gradually in the body of the soap, forming a non antiseptic substance.

In order to answer the requirements for a soap, an antiseptic substance must fulfill the following conditions: It must possess antiseptic and microbicidal properties; must be devoid of color, odor, and corrosive or irritating effects; it must be neither poisonous nor volatile; lastly it must not decompose in contact with soap, neither at once nor for a long time.

Several new substances answer this description: Naphthol, salol, microcidine, savonal, etc. Savonal is a substance based on salol and betol, specially adapted for soap. It forms a white powder, of which one-half per cent. is added to the soap.—A. M. VILLON in *Les Corps Gras Industriels*.

### Substitute for Glass.

The substitute for glass, brought to notice some time ago by a manufacturer in Vienna, Austria, observes a writer in the *New York Sun*, is pronounced a practicable thing, likely to be introduced as valuable for certain purposes. The article is produced by dissolving from four to eight parts of collodion wool in about 100 parts by weight of ether or alcohol or acetic ether, and with this are intimately combined from 2 to 4 per cent. of castor oil and 4 to 10 per cent. of resin or Canada balsam. This compound, when poured upon a glass plate and subjected to the drying action of a current of air of about 50 per cent., solidifies in a comparatively short time into a transparent glass-like sheet or plate, the thickness of which may be regulated as required. The sheet or plate so obtained has substantially the same properties as glass, resisting the action of salts and alkalis and of dilute acids, and, like glass, is transparent and has no smell. Again, it is said to be pliable or flexible and infrangible to a great degree, while its inflammability is much less than that of the collodion sub-

stitutes. Any desired color may be imparted to the compound by admixture of the necessary pigment, the latter to be soluble in the solvent used in the preparation of the compound if incorporated therewith; but color may be imparted by surface application, aniline dyes being employed, and thus the sheets may be used in lieu of stained glass.—*Baltimore Journal of Commerce*.

### How to Attain Skill.

While heedless and bungling, stumbling along thoughtlessly and carelessly, do you look for success? That geni never comes at such a call, nor can it be caught by such a step. Beginning quite down at the simplest things, and doing these well, we must come up to the greater with such cautious steps as to make each foot-mark a measured tread.

The multitude go at such hap-hazard strides they leave everything in confusion. They jolt against each other, striving for place and power so wildly and indefinitely, they deserve only what they get—disappointment. The man who would have permanent success must get skill, and for this he must first get caution, deliberation and thoughtfulness, as the foundation for patience, accuracy and tact, and each thing must be done well. Then he shall hear the approving plaudit of his Master, "Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things." It is the continued painstaking step by step that brings perfection in character and work, and final skill and success.—*Items of Interest*.

### Ganza Inebriety.

In an interesting paper read to the East India Association on April 20th, Brigade-Surgeon Pringle stated that, of the admissions to lunatic asylums in Bengal during the past two years, where the course of the disease could be traced, the percentage of cases due to ganza or Indian hemp was 53 per cent. of the whole number of admissions. The author advocated somewhat similar legislation to that existing in Egypt and Turkey, amounting to a practical prohibition of the common sale of the drug. In Greece, the consumption of ganza is prohibited in cafes and other places of entertainment. In the course of an animated discussion the author's views as to the poisonous and dangerous properties of hemp were supported, so far as regards the medical profession, by Brigade-Surgeon Staples and Dr. Norman Kerr, and opposed by Surgeon-Lieutenant Colonel Ince.—*British Medical Journal*.

Calcium Bisulphite Liquid is a colorless or slightly yellowish liquid, having a strong odor of sulphurous acid. It is used in dilutions of 1:4 or 1:8 of water as a general, cheap and powerful antiseptic.

### Russian Vaseline.

Under the name of Russian vaselin a substance has been introduced to commerce in continental Europe which is much cheaper than American vaselin and possesses pretty much all of the good qualities of the latter. It is described by *Le Monde Pharmaceutique* as a brown unctuous substance, having the greenish fluorescence of the mineral oils, of considerable body, devoid of granulation, and very pleasant to the touch. It retains the odor of the oil, however, which is one objection to it, since it can not be employed either in perfumery or pharmacy. It finds many applications in the arts and industries, however, in which it effects a very large saving as compared with the American product.

### Adulterated Olive Oil.

The *Drogisten Zeitung* reports that a form of adulteration recently detected, but practiced for a considerable length of time, consists in the addition of 25 per cent. of pure odorless vaseline to the olive oil. The vaseline, it is said, is added to the ground olives, left with them for 24 hours, and then pressed. By this treatment the vaseline acquires the odor and the taste of olive oil and can be mixed with the latter in all proportions.

COCOA-NUT OIL AS A TAPEWORM REMEDY.—Dr. Parisi, a Greek physician practising at Athens, has communicated to the French medical papers his experience with regard to cocoa-nut oil as a remedy for tapeworm. As the author was travelling in Abyssinia one day, after eating and drinking the pulp and milk of several cocoa-nuts, he felt very unwell. Soon after there came on a copious action of the bowels, and he was surprised to see that he had expelled a complete tape-worm, head and all, quite dead. On his return to Athens, he repeated this experiment on a number of patients suffering from tapeworm, and was successful in all cases, the tenia always coming out entire and dead. The treatment he now adopts as being the most convenient and effective is as follows:—The patient, while fasting, is ordered to take in the morning the milk and pulp of one cocoa-nut; no cathartic is needed, and no peculiar care requisite. This simple remedy, he tells us, is as effective as pomegranate root or male fern, and for several reasons preferable to them. The only difficulty appears that of being able to eat an entire cocoa-nut, milk and all, before breakfast in the morning.

CAPILARIA.—Capilaria is a light, finely porous mass, which on account of its porosity absorbs water to a remarkable degree. It consists of silica, calcium sulphate and magnesium carbonate.—*Sud. D. Apoth.-Zeit.*

CHROME BLUE is a new chromic pigment, supplementing those previously known, viz.: yellow, green and red.