

**OSTRICH PEPSINE.**—M. Alfred Ebelot, in an article in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, on the means employed in the Argentine Republic to protect settlers in the Pampas from the Indians, gives some curious statements with regard to ostrich pepsine. The soldiers never could resist an ostrich hunt when they saw a male ostrich, as is the custom of that bird, taking out its young brood for food and exercise. The parent bird generally escaped, leaving its young in the hands of its enemies. When other food was scarce they ate the young ostriches. Some portions of the flesh of these birds when young and fat are reckoned dainty by the Indians. Whilst eating the ostrich the Indians always carefully put aside the stomach in order to collect the pepsine which it contains. "The stomach of the ostrich," says M. Ebelot, "is celebrated for its incredible powers of digestion. The abundance of pepsine, to which it owes this faculty, has created among Indians a curious commercial fraud. They dry and sell it literally for its weight in gold. It is used for the purpose of restoring worn-out stomachs." A London medical journal says: "We think 'ostrich pepsine' such a splendid name for business purposes that we wonder it has never been adopted. The pepsine of the pig would have no chance in competition with that of the ostrich, and no great city dinner or regimental mess would be complete without a supply of this infallible specific, 'pour refaire les estomacs délabrés.'"

**NEW METHOD OF COVERING THE TASTE OF COD-LIVER OIL.**—Dr. Ponteres mixes a tablespoonful of cod-liver oil with the yolk of an egg, and when they are thoroughly combined, adds to them a few drops spirits of mint and half a glass of sugar water. In this way he obtains a sort of mulled egg, which differs very little from ordinary mulled egg, and which presents neither the taste nor odor characteristic of cod-liver oil. It can consequently be taken without repugnance by the most fastidious patients.—*Union Medicale. N. Y. Record.*

**DEODORIZING PETROLEUM.**—*To The Druggist's Circular:* Can you favor me with a formula for deodorizing kerosene or coal oil? Please answer through your journal, and oblige yours, etc., H. J. B.—*London, England.*

[ANSWER.—A process was published in *The Druggist's Circular* of March, 1877; it appears simple and economical enough, but we cannot say how it succeeds in practice. It is as follows:

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| Take of alcohol of 93°..... | 1 pound.   |
| Sulphuric acid.....         | 2 ounces.  |
| Nitric acid.....            | 2 "        |
| Petroleum.....              | 20 pounds. |

The acids are first introduced separately into the petroleum by means of a glass funnel long enough to reach near the bottom of the vessel; and the alcohol is poured on the surface of the liquid, whence it

slowly descends to the lower stratum, and comes in contact with the acids. At that time heat is developed, effervescence takes place all through the mass, and a small quantity of nitric ether is formed. The products of the reaction have a very pleasant odor, and the petroleum acquires a similar smell, becoming at the same time slightly yellow. The operation lasts about one hour, after which the mixture is to be washed with a small quantity of water, and allowed to settle for eight or ten hours. The upper layer is deodorized petroleum. The remaining liquid can be used for heavy oils by simple agitation, followed by washing with milk of lime to remove the excess of acid.

Another process is to mix chloride of lime with the petroleum, in the proportion of three ounces for each gallon of the liquid to be purified. It is then introduced into a cask, some muriatic acid is added, and the mixture is well agitated, so as to bring the whole of the liquid into intimate contact with the chlorine gas. Finally, the petroleum is passed into another vessel containing slaked lime, which absorbs the free chlorine, and leaves the oil sufficiently deodorized and purified.

**CARBOLIC ACID ODOR DISGUISED.**—In this preparation the disagreeable odor of the acid is simply masked by the use of oil of lemon, which has no prejudicial action upon its antiseptic properties. The recipe is published in the *Moniteur Scientifique*, of Paris, and is as follows:

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|---------------------|----------|
| Carbolic acid.....  | 3 i;     |
| Oil lemon.....      | 3 iii;   |
| Alcohol at 36°..... | 3 xiiss; |

The mixture is quite perfect, and appears to be very stable. The odor of the oil is alone appreciable.—*N. Y. Brief.*

An unfortunate French pharmacist has been fined more than 600 francs for selling some *eau blanche*, or acetate of lead lotion. It was applied externally to a man, who died some days after. The doctors reported that the death was *not* due to the lotion, but the widow brought an action against the pharmacist, which led to the heavy fine just mentioned.

There has been started a rumour that a long-continued drought has injured the chances of the next opium crop. Another suggestion of the enemy, and perhaps a more probable one, is that the Turkish Government is likely to fix an export duty on the drug.—*Chemist and Druggist.*

**ATROPINE AND DATURINE.**—The *Boston Journal of Chemistry* for August, 1878, says that in 1850 A. Von Planta asserted that atropine and daturine were identical. This assertion led to mischief, for the manufacture of atropia was soon begun from the leaves and seeds of the stramonium. Hence the uncertainty of certain specimens of atropine, for daturine has been found to be less active than atropine, and more uncertain in its action.