

Dissolve the wax with moderate heat in a little of the castor-oil and triturate with the remainder of the oil and the glycerine until it is cool; then add the essences and the volatile oils. Finally, rub the annatto with a drachm of water until it is thoroughly suspended, add a drachm of alcohol, and stir the coloring matter into the pomade until it is intimately incorporated.—*Drug. Circular.*

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AN EXPLOSION OF A MIXTURE OF CHLORATE OF POTASSIUM AND TANNIN, we are informed, occurred again in this city on the sixth of April last, and the dispenser was severely injured thereby in the face and on the hands. On page 470 of the *American Journal of Pharmacy* for 1869, a similar case is recorded, and others have been noticed by medical, pharmaceutical and chemical journals of this country and elsewhere. The explosive nature of mixtures of chlorate of potassium with combustible and oxidizable materials is well known to chemists, and chemical works usually draw attention to the danger attending the mixing of such articles in a dry state in a mortar or with pressure. Chemical students are familiar with the lecture experiment of producing detonations by triturating the chlorate with some sulphur; such detonations unaccompanied by danger, are liable to occur even on rubbing, with some pressure, chlorate of potassium in a dusty mortar. The experiment, however, becomes at once dangerous, as soon as a sufficient quantity of a combustible article has been incorporated with the powdered chlorate, and the explosiveness of such mixtures increases with the combustibility of their ingredients. The blasting and so-called white gun-powders which were recommended some twenty years ago, are such mixtures. The former contain red sulphuret of arsenic or ferrocyanide of potassium, or both, and their danger was made manifest by an accident which happened to the inventor and patentee, Mr. Callow, who was rendered a cripple for life. Such explosions are not only liable to take place by rubbing or by a blow, but also on the addition of acids sufficiently concentrated to decompose a portion of the chlorate and locally heat the mixture. Strong sulphuric acid is especially dangerous from the last named causes. Whenever chlorate of potassium is prescribed in the form of powder mixed with *any organic* or with an *oxidizable inorganic* compound, the only safe way to dispense such a proportion is to triturate the materials *separately* until they are reduced to a fine powder, and then mix the powders intimately upon paper without friction. In preparing gargles and other liquid medicines containing such ingredients, the latter should never be mixed in a mortar until after a sufficient quantity of water has been added. But even though such *dry* mixtures may be prepared by the pharmacist without danger to himself, we question whether the physician is justified to prescribe them, considering the danger to which he exposes his patient. Several years ago, we remember that such a mixture exploded, from some cause or other in the house of the patient, happily, however, without doing any injury, except setting fire to a few contiguous articles.—*American Journal of Pharmacy.*