

article ever sold in Boston. This is still the only point in the United States where any noticeable amount is collected, and the annual crop is not far from 500,000 pounds, equal to about 6,000 barrels.

Its most important use is as sizing, it being used in the manufacture of cloth, paper and felt and straw hats. The poorer qualities are bought up for size. The hand-pulled moss, however, contains more starchy matter than the variety which is never exposed to the air. The second quality of moss is sold to the brewers. All beers, when well brewed and sound, after a certain repose, become transparent. When, however, beer is sent out very new it is necessary to "fine" it, or impart to it that transparency. This is done by means of finings. In Europe isinglass is used for this purpose, and a lengthy formula is given for its preparation; but in this country Irish moss performs the same service without any preparation other than that given it by the curer.—*Am. Exch. & Review.*

Turpentine an antidote to Phosphorus.

M. Vigla states that, in a certain lucifer factory, the workmen who dip the matches wear on their chest a little vessel containing essence of turpentine, which is said to preserve the operators from the evil effects of the phosphorous vapours. It is well known that the vapour of turpentine, and many other hydrocarbons completely extinguishes the phosphorescent light which phosphorous ordinarily emits when in contact with air, and apparently prevents the slow combustion from taking place. Its influence in protecting the workmen may be due to this property.

Dr. Andant relates in the 'Bulletin Général de Thérapeutique,' a curious case to show the influence of turpentine in phosphorus poisoning. A workman, sixty-three years old, wishing to commit suicide, masticated the tipped ends of a boxful of wax matches. Immediately afterwards, thinking to assist the action of the poison, he swallowed about half an ounce of essence of turpentine mixed with a pint of water. After some time, finding the poison did not act, he chewed the ends of two more boxfuls of the matches, and then lay down, as he thought, to die.—He suffered from severe thirst, some pains in the bowels, accompanied by constipation, but nothing more. He had taken the phosphorous contained on about a hundred and fifty matches, but, thanks to the turpentine, he recovered, enduring no ill effects, and with no medical treatment beyond a dose of castor oil.—*Pharmaceutical Journal, Eng.*

Syrup of Iodide of Iron and its Preservation.

M. Seanneal, taking advantage of the power glucose possesses to reduce a persalt of iron at ordinary temperature, recommends the following formula for the preparation of a solution of iodide of iron which shall remain unchanged by exposure to the air.

Iodine.....	8.2 parts.
Iron filings.....	4.0 "
Distilled water.....	20.0 "
Honey.....	70.0 "
Tartaric acid.....	0.5 "

Mix the iodine, iron, and water, in a flask, and when combination is complete, filter the green solution, and add the honey and tar-

taric acid. The product will contain 10 per cent. of iodide of iron. This preparation, after remaining exposed to the air in a phial simply closed with paper for two months, was still bright and free from colour. It contained no free iodine, or ferric salt.

M. Jeannel has observed that the addition of one five-thousandth part of tartaric acid to syrup of iodide of iron, which has become bad, renders it clear and, at the same time, notably diminishes its inky taste.—*Pharmaceutical Journal, Eng.*

Enameling of Iron Vessels.

The enameling of saucepans and other articles in wrought or cast iron has long been practical, a very fusible enamel reduced to powder being sprinkled over the surface of the iron when heated to redness; but as the mixtures employed consist of highly alkaline silicates, the enamel is not very durable, and will not withstand acids or even salt liquids. An improved process has been introduced in France. The metallic surface is brought in contact with the ingredients of ordinary white glass, and heated to vitrification: the iron is said to oxidize by combination with silicic acid, and the glass thus forms one compact body with the metal. The coating of enamel may be laid on as thinly or as thickly as desired, but a thin coating is better as regards the effect of expansion or dilatation. Experiments are being made in coating the armor plates for ships in the manner above indicated.—*Scientific American.*

An apology for Latin.

The last number of the *Pharmaceutical Journal* of England, contains an article under the above caption, which will be easily recognised as coming from the pen of Mr. Ince. We extract a part of it for the benefit of our Latin despising apprentices.

The subject here presented is of the deepest and most urgent importance. I implore those who have under their care apprentices, or others who may hereafter seek a living by what is called Pharmacy, not to be led astray respecting this matter.

It is not intended, because special stress is laid upon one point, to disparage the usual branches of a liberal education. We are Englishmen, and must learn to read and write correctly the language which we speak, as well as to be conversant with the works of those who have made us proud of our nationality; but it is my object to demonstrate the evil consequences entailed by the neglect of a particular study. Recent examinations and the confession of many who are anxious to prepare themselves, have shown how incalculable is the help to be derived from an early moderate acquaintance with the classics, due not only to positive knowledge gained, but to an enviable facility of concentrating mental power. I have no wish (save for the marvellous pleasure of the thing, and its gilding of the monotony of life) to recommend the study of Virgil, Horace, Lary and Cicero; still less to become romantic and utopian in praise of Greek; but it cannot be denied that such studies form a mental training which men with easy fortunes may neglect, but the loss of which we, as pharmacists, who have to gain a living, cannot possibly afford.

Why is Latin thus prominently introduced? It is sought by a trick of literature, or by an affectation of profound scholarship, to write sensational sentences!

A new existence opens out for pharmacy, higher and better than the past; a career for which we may prepare our sons without sense of social degradation. But exalted status can only, though secured officially, be supported by corresponding fitness.

Now Latin strikes at the root of the superficial—its teachings cannot be guessed at in itself as a commencing study, it is utterly unattractive. Every word means something, no one noun or adjective can be substituted for another. *Pir* is man, and so is *homo*, in English, not in Latin. To grasp its elementary principles nothing but close attention and thoroughness of labor will avail. A youth scarcely fledged—given a certain amount of cleverness and self-sufficiency, can soon theorise and discourse in a popular manner about most other things; the mysteries of religion are explained on Sunday afternoons by young gentlemen in the Regent's Park, to an admiring family audience and one London Member of Council, whilst the novice easily becomes familiar with the run of scientific experiments in a manner which (unhappily for himself) may astound the listener as much as the Fellows of the Royal. But Latin is imperative in its demands: a page of Ovid or of Sallust is a battle-field which must be conquered, and nothing can avail the combatant to work. The truer the work, the greater the success.

This earnest strife is in itself the foundation of future excellence. When hexameters and pentameters are forgotten, when it is no longer of the smallest consequence whether the first or second Punic wars are hopelessly confused, when Julius Caesar may, with impunity, be mistaken for Augustus, when the fourth Georgic may have ceased to charm, and the Elogues are as little remembered as the *Sic te Diva*, still the result remains—one for which the student, especially the Pharmacist, may thank God every day of his after life. There is left the gift of accurate, minute investigation; the contempt for clap-trap and superficiality; the longing for and realization of the possession of abstract knowledge; the capability at a given instant of directing trained energy in any desirable direction.

There is, moreover, a release from the tyranny of desultory endeavour; from the waste of time and plodding spent in praiseworthy but mistaken approach to work in hand. Finally, to a mind thus exercised there is the dowry of that innate command of thought and consequent action which eventually will prove the surest hold upon the reins of business, and will at least rob our examinations of their last trace of terror.

CANTHARIDES.—An Austrian apothecary Jul. Nentierich writes to the *Gazette of the Austrian Apoth. Union*. "This summer (1867) I had some good opportunities for observing several large swarms of cantharides. Experiments which I instituted with the smallest of the younger insect, showed them to be altogether devoid of vesicating properties, the application of a fresh cataplasm to the inner surface of the arm for eight hours failing to produce even reddening of the skin. Those of medium size proved similarly innocuous, and it seems as if the active principle cantharidin forms only subsequent to copulation, for vesication certainly results only from the full-grown insect."

CARBOLIC ACID IN SNAKE BITES.—From a letter received by F. C. Calvert, & Co. from Australia, it would appear that the internal administration of carbollic acid in the bites of poisonous reptiles, has been attended with the best results. A lad bitten by a tiger snake—one of the most deadly—was tried with ten drops of the pure acid, every few minutes, in brandy and water; under the treatment his recovery was rapid.