

fatty oils. It is a more powerful disinfectant than benzoic acid. As a bleaching agent it is most effective at a water-bath temperature or when exposed to sunlight, but is somewhat weaker than hydrogen dioxide. — *Pharm. Centr.*

SODIUM SULPHUROSO-BENZOATE. — A white powder soluble in water, found by F. Heckel to have a decided antiseptic power toward various microbes. (*Apoth. Zeit.*) Said to be non-toxic to the human organism even in large doses. For medical practice the remedy is a convenient antiseptic, and has decided advantages over the mercury salts, because of its non-toxic and non-irritant effects, although it is not so effective an antiseptic.

Laboratory Hints.

CLEANING FUNNELS AND MEASURES.

Funnels and measures used for measuring varnishes, oils, etc., may be cleaned by soaking them in a strong solution of lye or pearlash (*Pharmaceutical Era.*) Another mixture for the same purpose consists of pearlash with quicklime in aqueous solution. The measures are allowed to soak in the solution for a short time, when the resinous matter of the paint or varnish is easily removed. A thin coating of petroleum lubricating oils may be removed, it is said, by the use of naphtha or petroleum benzene.

A practical powder mixer has been devised by Garraud. The apparatus consists of an elliptical box of varnished pasteboard, hard wood, glass, stone, or celluloid, and may be obtained in various sizes to take the place of powder mortars. The powders are placed in the box with a few glass balls, whose size must be in proportion to the dimensions of the box. The admixture is accomplished by a rapid rotary movement, and requires from one to two minutes, depending upon the nature of the ingredients. — (*Ztsch. f. Pharm.*).

A SOAP FOR CLEANING INSTRUMENTS.

A soap for cleaning surgical instruments, and other articles of polished steel, which have become flecked with rust by exposure in show case, is made by adding precipitated chalk to a strong solution of cyanide of potassium in water until a cream-like paste is obtained. Add to this white castile soap in fine shavings,

and rub the whole together in a mortar until thoroughly incorporated. The article to be cleaned should be first immersed, if possible, in a solution of one part of cyanide of potash, in four parts of water, and kept there until the surface dirt and rust disappears. It should then be polished with the soap, made as above directed. Articles so treated look as "good as new." — *Monthly Magazine of Pharmacy.*

STRENGTHENED FILTER PAPER.

When ordinary filter paper is dipped into nitric acid (s. g. 1.42), thoroughly washed and dried, it becomes a tissue of remarkable properties, and one that deserves to be better known by chemists and pharmacists. It shrinks somewhat in size and in weight, and gives on burning a diminished ash. It yields no nitrogen, nor does it in the slightest manner affect liquids traversing it. It remains perfectly pervious to liquids, its filtering properties being in no wise affected, which, it is needless to say, is very different from the behavior of the same paper "parchmented" by sulphuric acid. It is as supple as a rag, yet may be very roughly handled, even when wet, without tearing or giving way. These qualities make it very valuable for use in filtration under pressure or exhaust. It fits closely to the funnel, upon which it may be used direct, without any supports, and it thus prevents undue access of air. As to strength, we can say from actual experiment that it is increased upward of 1,000 per cent. A strip of ordinary white Swedish paper, one-fifth of an inch wide, will sustain a load of from half to three-quarters of a pound avoirdupois, according to the quality of the paper. A similar strip of the toughened paper broke, in three trials, with 5 lbs. 7 ozs. and 3 drams; 5 lbs. 4 ozs. and 36 grains, and 5 lbs. 10 ozs. respectively. These are facts that deserve to be better known than they seem to be to the profession at large. — *Nat. Druggist.*

A Valuable Invention.

We would call the attention of our readers to the advertisement of Lalonde's Automatic Combination Cushion Syringe, which appears in this issue. The proprietor has been manufacturing these syringes in a small way, but is now offering them to physicians and the trade in response to the many enquiries made. The principle of the syringe certainly ap-

pears to be the correct one; the person using it sits with comfort on the instrument and is not subject to any inconvenience, while the syringe empties itself rapidly and gives quick relief. Attachments for vaginal and nasal use also accompany each syringe, making it a perfect household appliance. The following is but a sample of scores of testimonials in Mr. Lalonde's possession:

Montreal, 14th June. 1898

Mr. JOS. LALONDE,

955 St. Catherines street.

I make it a duty to declare that the Lalonde Automatic Syringe has no equal. I was suffering for several months from disease of the liver, and I had during the same period an inflammation of the bowels, which made me suffer more than I could say. From the counsel of our family doctor, Mr. McNamara, St. Dennis street, I procured for myself one of those Automatic Syringes, but now I would not part with it under any consideration, for I have obtained from its use a relief and such results that I cannot do otherwise than recommend to the public, and this very strongly, the Lalonde Automatic Syringe.

(Signed), H. LAMOUCHE,
1329 St. Andre street,
Montreal.

Proposed British Travellers' Association.

An interesting proposal comes from Chester, England. At a meeting held by the foreign travellers of various well-known Manchester and Birmingham houses, several speakers dwelt upon the advisableness of forming an "Association of British Transatlantic Travellers," for the purpose of promoting social intercourse, of promoting assistance in cases of sickness abroad, of prosecuting claims of various descriptions abroad, furnishing information as to sea routes, overland journeys into the interior of various republics, facilities as to travel, collaboration with consuls abroad and chambers of commerce at home. Questions of life insurance as affecting foreign travel, questions of arbitration, registered trade marks, and many other matters of great importance to foreign travellers as a body, and the shipping trades in general, were also discussed. The opinions expressed proved the desirableness of forming such a society, to embrace the representatives of all classes of British exporters, and it was decided to discuss the matters put forward at a special meeting.