

in keeping the iron—already made into such forms as may be required—for six or seven hours in an atmosphere of steam, superheated to about 500° F. The effect is to produce on each article a superficial coating of black oxide of iron, which is said to effectually protect the metal underneath, and also to render the surface harder. It is proposed to take advantage of this method in order to preserve bolts and stays in buildings, railings, screws, hinges, tanks, nipples for gas burners, and other articles subject to rust.

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DEODORIZATION OF PETROLEUM.—Another method besides that of M. Masson, published in our last number, has been proposed by Mr. S. E. Johnson, of England. To the oil, contained in a cask or other receptacle, there is added chloride of lime in the proportion of three ounces to each gallon. The mixture is agitated, and, if a more vigorous action be desired, a little hydrochloric acid may be added. The oil is then poured into another closed vessel, and well agitated with a small quantity of slacked lime, which takes up adhering chlorine, and is said to leave the oil free from disagreeable odor.

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PREPARATION OF TARTRATE OF POTASSIUM.—The ordinary commercial salt generally contains tartrate of lime, and, if dissolved for medicinal use, will not give a clear solution. Mr. A. F. W. Neynaber, (*Druggists' Circular*), says that by dissolving the impure salt in ten times its weight in water, setting aside the solution for several days, and then filtering, evaporating and crystallizing, a salt may be obtained, which, though not absolutely free from tartrate of lime, will yield a bright solution free from deposit.

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COSMOLIN CREAM.—Mr. E. J. Davidson, (*Am. Jour. Pharm.*), proposes as a substitute for cold cream a preparation of cosmolin which may be thus prepared: Take of cosmolin, twenty four ounces; white wax and spermaceti, of each twelve ounces; glycerine, three fluid ounces; oil of rose-geranium, one fluid drachm. Melt the wax and spermaceti; add the cosmolin; stir until nearly cold; add the glycerine and stir until cold.

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PRESERVATION OF MEAT BY BORACIC ACID.—M. Herzen, (*Jour. de Pharm.*), alludes to the use of boracic acid as a preservative, and