

while in England and other places they are, at best, but slight and generally negative.

The following two causes will, I think, account for the difference :

1st. That the Peruvians and other tribes keep the best leaves for themselves, and export the inferior ones, as is well known the Chinese do in the exportation of tea.

2nd. That the sea air must in some way affect its efficacy, as it is supposed to do in the case of the *cannabis indica*, the value of which in tetanus is strikingly impaired.

To get the full benefit of the coca leaf in Europe or here I should be inclined to advise that an extract should be made of the leaves on the plantations, this, at any rate, would insure against any effect the sea air might have.

I will conclude this paper by giving some instances where in Brazil and Bolivia I have known benefit to follow the use of this plant.

It to a great extent replaces food. The Indian will take long journeys, carrying heavy loads, with nothing but a little maize and his coca leaves in his pouch. It acts as a stimulant, like alcohol, but is more lasting in its effects, and is not followed by depression. It is useful as a tonic, and may be employed when quinine and bark disagree with the stomach; it is very useful in convalescence after exhausting diseases; it is a powerful restorer of the vital forces; it has given much satisfaction as a curative in many forms of dyspepsia. It is said to have a special action on the vocal cords, strengthening the voice while singing. It is much used, and with great benefit, in various pulmonary affections, dyspnoea, etc.

QUERIES AND ANSWERS.—J. A. N. writes,—Would you kindly inform me of an unobjectionable anti-ferment for Hive Syrup, made according to the United States Dispensatory? I find great difficulty, he adds, in keeping it through the summer months, even in a cold cellar.

(M. Henri Lajoux asserts that the addition of salicylic acid in the proportion of one-tenth of one per cent. of the sugar contained in the Syrup will prevent its fermenting.)

RECENT EXPERIMENTS WITH ALCOHOL.—Prof. Binz, of Bonn, and some of his assistants, have recently re-examined the question of excretion of alcohol by the kidneys and lungs, using Geissler's vaporimeter for the detection of traces of alcohol. This instrument will allow of the detection of as little as 0.05 per cent. alcohol. They found that patients suffering from various febrile disorders, excreted by the kidneys during the eight or nine hours after doses of alcohol had been given not more than 3.1 per cent. of the total quantity, and in some cases no alcohol could be found. It also appears from these experiments that, practically, no alcohol escapes by the breath, even when large quantities

are taken, and hence it is concluded that by far the larger part of the alcohol is burnt up in the body in the processes of metamorphosis of the tissues. This is, of course, a well known fact, but its confirmation at this time is not inopportune.

COTO BARK.—In respect to this bark, which appears to be exciting some interest, a pertinent remark appeared in a recent number of the *Pharmaceutische Zeitung*. According to our contemporary, the "coto bark," originally examined by Jobst, and from which he isolated cotoin, is not met with in commerce, and the bark which came into the market last year under that name was exclusively "paracoto bark." If this be correct, it follows that the "cotoin" of some price lists must be represented by para-cotoin, which, as stated by Jobst, even when freed as much as possible from leucotin and other bodies accompanying it in the bark, is inferior in its anti-diarrhoeic action to the true cotoin.

PHOSPHIDE OF ZINC, in a granule of from one to two fifteenths of a grain, thrice daily, seems to have proved an effectual remedy for hysteria, in the hands of Dr. Gross.

IODOFORM.—Dr. Wyndham Cottle recommends the use of iodoform as a parasiticide, and for indolent and syphilitic ulcers and wounds, in the form of ointment of twenty grains to an ounce of lard. Dr. Lennox Browne recommends a solution in the proportion of one part of iodoform to ten or twelve of ether for local application in post-nasal catarrh.

IODIDE OF ETHYL.—This preparation has recently been employed by Prof. Lee as an inhalation in asthma, and is reported to relieve the paroxysms of difficulty of breathing very rapidly.

THE ACTION OF GLYCERINE.—Dr. A. Catillon has been investigating the influence of moderate doses of glycerine on the animal economy. He found that half a gramme of glycerine per diem caused an increase of one-tenth to one-fifth in body-weight in guinea pigs. Experiments on himself and on dogs proved that this increase was due, in part, to the formation of fat, and in part to diminished destruction of nitrogenized tissue. Some time ago Drs. Dujardin, Beaumetz and Andryé proved that the subcutaneous injection of eight or ten grammes of glycerine per kilogramme of body weight would kill a dog in twenty-four hours.—*Chemist and Druggist*.)

LOCUST OIL.—Analysis and examination of the dead Rocky Mountain locusts by the United States Entomological Commission show that these insects furnish a new oil which will be christened *caloptine*, and a very large percentage of pure formic acid. Though this acid exists in the ant and some other insects, it is with difficulty obtained in large quantities; whereas by the action of sulphuric acid upon the locust juices, it passes off with great readiness, and in remarkable quantity and gravity. The various uses of this acid as a therapeutic, etc., are capable of great and valuable extension, where it can be obtained so readily and in such quantity. (*Druggists' Circular*.)