

**ON PELLETIERIA\* AN ALKALOID OF POMEGRANATE BARK.**—Mr. Tanret has discovered in the bark of the branches and roots of the pomegranate a volatile alkaloid, to which he has given the name *pelletieria*, in honor of the well-known chemist, Pelletier. The alkaloid may be obtained by the following process: Pomegranate bark, from the branches and roots, is reduced to a coarse powder, the latter moistened with a rather thick milk of lime, and packed in a displacement apparatus. It is then treated with water, and the percolate divided into two portions, each of which is several times shaken with chloroform. The latter, after being separated, is treated with dilute acid, and the slightly acidulous aqueous solution is evaporated, when the crystalline salt of the alkaloid will remain behind. This may be obtained pure, by decomposing the salt with potassium carbonate, and dissolving the alkaloid out with ether or chloroform. On evaporating the latter solution at a low temperature, or even on distilling off the ether or chloroform, the pure substance is left as a residue. One kilo of the dry bark yields about four grams of sulphate of pelletieria.

Pure pelletieria is oleaginous, colorless, and volatile (boiling about 180° C.). It emits vapors at ordinary temperature, and is very soluble in water, alcohol, ether, and chloroform. The sulphate, muriate, and nitrate are crystallizable, but exceedingly hygroscopic. It is precipitated by most of the alkaloidal reagents. Whether the tænicidal properties of the pomegranate-bark are due to this alkaloid remains to be shown by further researches, which are promised by the author.—*Répert. de Pharm.*, 1878, 241.

**LACTOPEPTINE.**—This is a preparation which is acquiring no little reputation in the profession. It is composed of pepsin, pancreatine, diastase or vegetable ptyalin, lactic and hydrochloric acids, and sugar of milk. It is said to digest three or four times more coagulated albumen than any preparation of pepsin in the market. It has been found to be an excellent remedy in gastritis, chronic dyspepsia, in the diarrhoea and dysentery of children, in the vomiting of pregnancy, etc. It has received much praise, indeed, in the wasting diseases of children, which is attended largely with improper digestion of food. We feel confident that our friends will be pleased by a fair trial of it, and we hope they will make such, and some of them furnish us with a report.—*Cincinnati Medical News*, February, 1878.

**SALICYLIC ACID AND BORAX.**—It may be interesting and perhaps useful for some readers of the *Journal* to know that while a solution containing ten grains of salicylic acid and ten grains of borax in one ounce of water has a very

bitter taste and an acid reaction, a solution containing ten grains of salicylic acid and fifteen grains of borax has no disagreeable taste, and is nearly neutral. This solution appears to possess all the valuable properties of salicylic acid, and forms an agreeable means of using the acid internally or as a gargle.—*London Pharm. Jour.*

**CHROMACOME.**—This is a French preparation which "contains nothing injurious to health." This hair dye consists of two fluids. The first, "Le chromacome, teinture supérieure de William W. A. T., No. 1, Bonn," weighing about forty-five grammes, is tincture of galls. The other, No. 2, is a solution of acetate of iron with a little nitrate of silver. When gray hair is moistened first with No. 1, then with No. 2, it becomes blackish-brown or black. Terreur, hairdresser, 117 and 119 Rue Montmartre, Paris, is the chief agent for this preparation.—*Schadler*.

**ANOTHER MRS. PARTINGTON.**—A lady quite well known in Philadelphia, who spent the summer at Newport this year, asked her physician (also a well-known Philadelphian), if he did not think the atmosphere of Newport enervating? The physician assured her that his opinion was quite the contrary, that he considered it decidedly tonic. "Do you, really?" was her rejoinder. "It seems to me as if there is not enough *sozodont* in the atmosphere!"

**TABLE SALT IN MILK FOR CHILDREN.**—Dr. J. Q. Smith says that, when cow's milk disagrees with young children, the addition of a small quantity of table-salt will often correct the difficulty.—*New Medicines*.

A Great School of Pharmacy is being constructed in a portion of the grounds attached to the Luxembourg at Paris which will occupy in all the large space of 17,000 square yards, of which the laboratories will accommodate 600 working students. The school will be open in 1880.—*Boston Journal of Chemistry*.

**CHILLAN SULPHUR.**—Sulphur in immense quantity has been discovered in Chillan. The quality is so fine it is said to require only to be ground and sifted to be ready for market.

**CANADA BALSAM AS AN EXCIPIENT FOR PILLS.**—Danney proposes, as an excipient that will preserve pills for an indefinite period, a mixture of one part of wax and three of Canada Balsam.—*Boston Journal of Chemistry*.

**MORPHIA POISONING.**—The *Philadelphia Medical and Surgical Reporter* states that a death has occurred at Washington from the hypodermic injection of one-sixth of a grain of morphia. This is, perhaps, the smallest fatal dose recorded.

**PERMANGANATE** of potash relieves the condition in which lumbar pain, frequent micturition, and urine with profuse brickdust sediment and intestinal indigestion, are associated symptoms.

\* In place of this awkward name, Dr. Hager proposes the much more rational name *punicé-ise* (punicia).