

DANGERS OF ABSORPTION OF PHENIC ACID.—The carelessness with which non-professional journals take up certain popular receipts is not always without its dangers, and especially since these often come into the hands of children. For instance, there appeared lately in one of the public prints an article upon the poison of vipers, which recommended that carbolic acid should immediately be introduced within the wound, the acid to be mixed with alcohol *in the proportion of two to one*. Observe the off-hand manner in which a toxic agent is spoken of, as if it were the most inoffensive thing in the world. In order to try the experiment, a cat was selected upon whose skin, denuded of hair alone, a saturated solution of carbolic acid in alcohol, mixed with an equal quantity of water, was rubbed. This produced no effect; but when the same solution was rubbed into a scratch upon the nose two or three times, the animal immediately fell into convulsions, and very shortly succumbed. Prussic acid could not have acted more promptly. The moral of this experiment is obvious.—*L'Abcille Médicale*, No. 3, 1875; *from Medical Times*.

CHLORIDE OF LEAD AS A DEODORIZER AND DISINFECTANT.—Dr. R. H. Goolden calls attention (*Lancet*, Dec. 11, 1875), to the value of chloride of lead, which he says is the most powerful and economical deodorizer and disinfectant. To prepare it for use he directs to take half a drachm of nitrate of lead, dissolve it in a pint or more of boiling water, then dissolve two drachms of common salt in a bucket of water, and pour the two solutions together; allow the sediment to subside. The clear supernatant fluid will be a saturated solution of chloride of lead. A cloth dipped in this solution and hung up in a room will sweeten a fetid atmosphere instantaneously, or the solution thrown down a sink, water-closet, or drain, or over a heap of dung or other refuse, will produce a like result. Even the tarnishing of gold and silver plate may be prevented by a rag dipped in the solution being hung up in a room or window where it is exposed. He relates some striking instances of the instantaneous and efficient action of this preparation.—*Med. News and Library*.

TO DESTROY HOUSEHOLD PESTS.—For the destruction of indoor pests, hot alum-water is said to be unfailing as an insecticide. It will destroy red and black ants, cockroaches, spiders, bugs, and all the crawling pests which infest our houses. Two pounds of alum dissolved into three or four quarts of boiling water; let it stand on the fire till the alum disappears; apply it with a brush, while nearly boiling hot, to every joint and crevice in closets, bedsteads, pantry-shelves and the like. Brush the crevices in the floor of the skirting or boards, if you suspect that they harbor vermin. If, in whitewashing a ceiling, plenty of alum is added to the lime, it will also serve to keep insects at a distance. Cockroaches will flee the paint which has been washed in alum water.

REACTIONS OF SACCHARINE MATTERS.—By M. Vidau.—A mixture of equal parts of commercial hydrochloric acid and of a fatty oil, but especially of oil of sesame, is a very delicate test for sugar, glucose, levulose, honey, &c. The oil and acid are shaken together for some minutes, and the mixture is heated until the acid liquid begins to boil, then the acid is allowed to subside and its colour is observed. When oil of sesame is used, the subsequent addition of one-tenth of a milligram of inverted sugar suffices to produce a characteristic rose colour. The reaction is distinct with a liquid containing one 20,000th of inverted sugar, and detects a milligram of that substance when dissolved in a cubic centimeter of normal urine.—*J. Pharm. Chim.*, (44), xxii., 33. *Amer. Jour. Pharm.*