

SELECTIONS.

PILL EXCIPIENT.—A little of the following mixture is said to go a great way in making all kinds of pills: Sugar, tragacanth, powdered gum arabic, medicinal soap, of each one part; glycerin, sixteen parts; heat to make a homogeneous paste.

QUININE PILLS. Use 3 drops of lactic acid to 10 grains of quinine sulphate, and you will get, according to E. Sohlet, an excellent pill mass, and it is claimed that the excipient is equally suitable when other ingredients than quinine form part of the pill mass.

CLARIFICATION OF MADDY TINCTURES.—Warren declares, in the *Chemical News*, that the most refractory of maddy tinctures made can be made bright and clear by the addition of a small quantity of egg albumen, which is allowed to digest therein for a little while. Simple filtration afterward removes all traces of suspended matter.

EYE WASH. A safe, cheap and good eye wash can be made by putting one drachm of the crystals of boric acid into one pint of soft boiled water, keep in a cool place, and bathe the eyes with three or four tablespoonfuls of the medicated water, as hot as can be endured, three or four times a day, letting some of the fluid get into the affected eye each time. The above is applicable in almost every case of inflammation of the conjunctiva, acute, subacute or chronic.

Pharmacopias now in use in various countries with their supplements amount to about 40 volumes. In number of subjects, the French Codex leads, having 2,033, while the Norwegian Pharmacopoeia has the least, 319. In the French there are 106 syrups, German 20, and Norwegian 9. England is the only country which still retains the old system of weights, all the others using the decimal system. The number of preparations found in one pharmacopoeia only amounts to 2,037, while 150 are included in all.

OLIVE OIL. When testing for sesame oil in olive oil it is best to expose the sample to bright light for a few days. Then mix about 6-8 c. c. of the oil with 12-14 c. c. of hydrochloric acid saturated with sugar, and shake violently in a stoppered cylinder of about 35 c. c. capacity. If the oil is adulterated with sesame oil a cherry red tint, more or less intense according to the quantity present, is imparted. This is a slight modification of the ordinary way of testing which has been proposed by Mr. W. Bishop.

Naphthalin-camphor packages in place of naphthalin paper are recommended by L. Kentmann to be made by melting together four parts naphthalin and one part camphor and pouring into paste board or metal boxes. They are used by fastening them to the upper part of a wardrobe or trunk, and the evaporation of the mixture can be regulated by opening the lid of the box. The camphor very nicely conceals the odor of the naphthalin. In the same way a disinfectant may be made and used, but substituting carbolic acid for the camphor; in this case it is best to impart a red color by the addition of a little alkali.

A curious accident which happened recently

in Paris points out a possible danger in the wearing of combs and bracelets of celluloid. A little girl sat down before the fire to prepare her lessons. Her hair was kept back by a semicircle of celluloid. As her head was bent forward to the fire this became warm, and suddenly burst into flames. The child's hair was partly burned off, and the skin of the head was so injured that several months after, though the burn was healed, the cicatrix formed a white patch on which no hair would grow. The burning point of celluloid is about 180 degrees, and the comb worn by the girl had attained that heat as it was held before the fire.

NEW SWISS PHARMACOPOEIA.—This new Pharmacopoeia describes about 800 medicines, and is published in German, French and Italian. The various articles are arranged alphabetically according to their Latin titles. The *Pharmaceutische Zeitung* states that amongst the features of the Pharmacopoeia are particulars as to what is meant by "powder," beginning from the finest grade, and designating coarser kinds by numbers. The specific gravities of tinctures are given; there are three sorts of extracts (fluid, soft and dry). Solutions are designated by the word "solutum," in preference to "liquor," these preparations occurring in the order of the names of the chief component, as, for example "kalium. acet. sol." Amongst the new deputures are to be noted the preparation of a few syrups from fluid extracts, and the standardisation of potent preparations, such as extract of nux vomica.

Some Queer Orders.

F. E. J., of Fort Scott, Kan., sends the following: I herewith hand you a few specimens of "odd orders" received by us:

"Red stuff for making tea for lady." "Peculiar ointment." (This, I thought, was mercantile ointment, and was assured of the fact by the lady asking for "one of our best five combs"). "Gum guaiac" (guayacum). And last, but no means least, comes an old sage (not *salvia officinalis*) with the following "specific for soar throate": "Chlorid potash, 10 cents; borax, 5 cents; croton oil, 5 cents. Mix, and take for sores in the throat."

Wofford & Miller, Johnson City, Tenn., sends the following written in poke-root ink and in the chirography of a blacksmith from the wilds of the "Old North State." It is headed "A Rescete fo stele temmerin:"

One and one-half oz of sul monac; 1½ oz of sul potash; 1 te spoonfull of nitrid acid; 1 lbs of borx; 1 Spoonfoot of salt; ½ lbs of alum; in 5 galluns of water.

"Warner," Memphis, Tenn., says: "The following was received from an old Arkansas granny who got so hot with me when I told her that I could not make out what she wanted that she told me I was 'not fitten to lick a skillet, cum lessen to put up yarks:'"

Cum FREe, 1 BunChE; Ale Kum Paine, 1 BuNeh.

"The last I can make out (elecampane), but the first gets me. Can you enlighten me?"—*Nat. Druggist*.

How do you LIKE IT?—This was sent me to-day I have several more as bad if not worse. How do you like it? I told the fellow it was a

wonder it did not kill him while toteing it about in his pocket:

Moofin	.	.	.	.	1 oz
Bals. pefa	.	.	.	.	1 oz
Spr. niter	.	.	.	.	1 oz
Loof sugar	.	.	.	.	1 oz
Powd. gum araba	.	.	.	.	1 oz
Laudaumn	.	.	.	.	1 dr
Good Jin	.	.	.	.	3ozs

dos ful tapleful three times a day after meal and before Bed time.

for pain at Nite

Spr. camfir	.	.	.	.	1 oz
Spr. Lobeli	.	.	.	.	1 oz
Spr. Spanish fly	.	.	.	.	1 oz
Bloodroot	.	.	.	.	1 oz

Appli with rag on pain az neded.

—[READER, III.]

A few peculiar orders from California customers:

5 cents worth common sede.

10 cents worth of Humbug to make Humbug tea.

A packet of Humbug tea.

Caster oiler bark.

Pooras plaster.

10 cents Iboriate of potass.

Bottle Dying Beasities Kidney Cure.

10 cents hightly pigelty.

ONE OF OUR OWNS CURIOSITIES.—Quinine, twintey grunes; powder alem, to drames; water, wan ounce; sulphurid acid, twenty drops; brandey, thre ounces.

Deodorization of Iodoform by Tar.

Ehrmann, of Vienna, finds that a pomade of iodoform to which tar is added does not possess the odor of iodoform, and he therefore employs this for the treatment of syphilitic ulcers.

M. Negel, of Jassy, has also confirmed the property which tar possesses of masking the odor of iodoform.

M. Konya has obtained in mixing 10 parts of iodoform with 100 parts of tar, a paste which will give forth neither the taste of tar nor that of iodoform.

With the addition of five per cent. only, a mixture in powdered form is obtained which no longer possesses the odor of iodoform.

This property of tar deodorizing, has suggested to Mr. Konya the idea of adding to suppositories of iodoform, and it has suggested the idea to Mr. Negel of manufacturing pills by the following formula:

Iodoform	3 grammes,
Wood tar	15 grammes,
Extract thebaïque	0.60 grammes.

To be made into 120 pills, of which M. Negel administers 8 per day to phthisies, who take this medicine without any repugnance whatever. *Journal la Clinique*.

A Fine Opportunity.

As a number of students have just completed the collegiate term and are looking about them for an "opening" we insert the following from the *Irish Times*, as perchance the situation may not yet be filled: "Pharmaceutical chemist wanted to manage a medical hall in the country, with a view to marrying a daughter of the late proprietor; nobody need apply except those whose character will bear the strictest scrutiny. Apply to Wm. Harrington & Son (Limited), chemists, Cork." Who will be the lucky one?