

SELECTIONS.

THE atomic weight of bismuth has long been accepted as 210. E. Claussen (*Berichte*) has just made some careful determinations of the atomic weight, which is shown to be 208.89830 if oxygen is taken as 16, or 208.37605 if oxygen is taken as 15.96.

A LANTOLIN REACTION. According to Vulpis, if a few centigrams of lanolin are dissolved in chloroform, and this solution is cautiously poured on an equal volume of sulphuric acid in a test-tube, there appears at the point of contact a fiery brown-red ring. The chloroform above the ring has a violet reflection.

PARAFFIN, when treated with solvents, behaves like a colloid. It yields jellies with benzol, chloroform, and especially with ether. In acetic acid it behaves like a crystalloid. The condition of paraffin in crude petroleum may thus be explained. —B. Pawlewski, in *Ber. d. Chem. Ges.*, xxiii. 327.

SOLUBILITY OF TARTAR EMETIC.—According to Kochlin (*Chem. Zeit.*) the solubility of tartar emetic is considerably increased by the addition of an alkaline chloride, such as common salt, or sal ammoniac. Thus, 5 parts of tartar emetic if combined with an equal weight of salt, will require only 10 parts of water for solution.

SOLUTION OF IODOFORM IN OLIVE OIL.—The *Munch Med. Wochens.* contains a communication from Dr. Haflter, to the effect that a saturated solution of camphor and olive oil takes up a considerable quantity of iodoform in solution. On careful investigation he ascertained that iodoform was dissolved in such a solution to the extent of six per cent.

HOW TO DISPENSE LITHIUM CARBONATE.—The solubility of lithium carbonate is in many instances insufficient, particularly when the salt has been exposed to too much heat in drying, or when its large sized grains have not been previously pulverised. Carles suggests, therefore, that it should only be dispensed in the form of a fine powder, and mixed with equal parts of sodium bicarbonate, or, better still, of sugar, by which means its solubility in (soda) water will be augmented.

ANTISEPTIC PAPER.—M. Duquaire, of Lyons, suggests an antiseptic paper consisting of asbestos with about 5 per cent. of ordinary paper pulp. Work into a soft paper, and soak in a solution of beeswax and petroleum benzene. After evaporation of the solvent, the paper is ready for use, all that is necessary being to light it with a match, after which the paper being completely aseptic, it may be used for dressing wounds, with or without iodoform or other antiseptics.—*Ch. and Dr.*

PYOKTANIN.—Merck exhibited in Berlin recently a number of new synthetical substances, among which were two anti-

septics, called pyoktanin, which appear to be anilin compounds. They are said to exceed corrosive sublimate in their bactericidal action, at the same time being non-poisonous, odorless and healing to the wounds to which they are applied. One variety is intended for surgical purposes, and the second for ophthalmological use. They are presented in the form of one and two per cent. dusting powders, ointment and bandages.

SUPPOSITORIES OF VEGETABLE EXTRACTS.—The following method of manipulation is recommended with an intractable vegetable extract, such as an extract of belladonna, when ordered in the form of a fatty suppository. Melt the necessary quantity of oil of theobroma with 10 per cent. of wax. Rub the extract perfectly smooth with an equal weight of lanoline or lard; pour on the mixture one third of the melted cocoa butter with constant stirring, then pour back into the bulk of the melted vehicle and having well mixed run into the moulds. —*Journal de Pharmacie*.

THIO RESORCIN.—The latest substitute for iodoform is a combination of sulphur with resorcin, discovered by Ewer and Pick of Berlin, to which the name of theo-resorcin has been applied. It occurs as a powder, and is without smell and entirely non-poisonous. It has been used as a dusting powder, and as an ointment made up with vaseline of the strength from 10 to 20 per cent. for eczema psoriasis, itch and other skin diseases. It is insoluble in water, but sparingly soluble in ether or alcohol. In price it is about the same as iodoform. ("Lancet," June 8th, 1889.)—*International Medical Annual*, 1890.

An Easy Way to Silver Glass.

This may be done by dissolving the parts of crystallised nitrates of silver in fifty parts of distilled water, to this exactly six parts of the solution of ammonia is to be added; then one part of tartaric acid must be dissolved in four half parts of water, and mixed with it; and afterwards diluted with 500 parts of pure distilled water. Having thus prepared the silver solution for use, it is now necessary to clean very carefully the glass we wish to silver, which is then placed in a vessel and the solution poured in. The vessel is next put away in a quiet place, and kept at a temperature of 40° to 50° Centigrade. When the glass is silvered it may be carefully washed in a very gentle stream of water, and then dried at a moderate heat. As the silver would tarnish by exposure to the action of the atmosphere, it is advisable to varnish it over with some polishing varnish. For this purpose amber, dissolved in chloroform, will be found an admirable preparation.—*National Glass Budget*.

Pambiano bark, derived from a Mexican leguminous tree, is recommended as a substitute for quinine.

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