

sulphate of ammonia is, in its turn, decomposed by means of common salt, the result being the formation of sulphate of soda and chloride of ammonium, the latter salt being reconverted into carbonate of ammonia by treatment with chalk.

Improved Formula for Chalk Mixture.

To obviate unpleasant and dangerous souring of chalk mixture as commonly prepared, glycerine may be substituted for the sugar, according to the following formula:—R. Creta Preparat, Glycerini aa ʒ ss.; Pulv. G. Acacie, ʒ ij.; Aquæ. Cinnam., Aquæ, aa ʒ iv. Rub well together until thoroughly mixed. This mixture will keep during a whole summer. The glycerine exerts positively a soothing effect upon the bowels, as well as in some degree arresting fermentation.—*Boston Journal of Chemistry.*

Peruvian Bismuth.

The increasing price of bismuth which has heretofore been almost exclusively obtained in Saxony has caused search to be made for this metal in other countries, which has resulted in bringing Peruvian bismuth into the market. According to Berth it contains:

- Bismuth.....93.36
- Antimony with a little tin... 4 57
- Copper with a little iron... 2.06

This metal is superior to the Saxon, as it contains no arsenic or sulphur.—*Journal of App. Chemistry.*

Purification of Chloral Hydrate.

Prof. F. A. Fluckiger states that much of the commercial chloral hydrate is impure, and unfit for use until purified. It is usually met with in irregular masses containing moisture, and having a sharp, pungent odor, indicating partial decomposition. The salt may be readily purified by dissolving it in pure bisulphide of carbon (soluble in forty-five parts of the menstruum at 18° C.) and allowing the salt to re-crystallize by the spontaneous evaporation of the solvent. The product appears in colorless prismatic crystals, not hygroscopic, and free from acid reaction.—*Pharm. Cent. Halle in Pharmacist.*

Extract of Calabar Bean.

J. B. Enz recommends the following process for preparing this extract: Reduce the bean to a moderately fine powder, and macerate in alcohol, sp. gr. 830, for ten days; then transfer the powder to a percolator and pass through alcohol until the percolate becomes colorless. Mix the tincture obtained by maceration with the percolate, distil off the alcohol, and evaporate the residue, over a water bath, to the proper consistence. The yield of extract is about two per cent.—*Pharm. Cent. Halle in Pharmacist.*

NEW USE FOR HYOSULPHITE OF SODA.—It is said that experiments made with this salt have proved it to be very superior for washing linen to the carbonate of soda now in use; it has no corrosive action, and does not cause a yellow coloring of the fabrics after some time. Borax, largely used in the Netherlands and Belgium, is a better substitute still, and, by its use, white fabrics as-

sume an agreeable bluish hue, which, in many instances, renders the subsequent use of washing blue unnecessary.

Miscellaneous, &c.

The Bullet-cure for Ileus.

The old remedy for colic, of a bullet or quicksilver taken into the stomach, has been revived, in a modified form, by Dr. Maydieu, of Argent, France. In the *Journal de Med. Pratique*, Dr. M. declares that, after seventeen years of the ordinary treatment, in which he always failed, he has been invariably successful in the twelve cases which he has treated with shot. He mixes No. 5 shot, after careful washing, with olive oil sufficient to cover them, and gives a desertspoonful every half hour. In five or six hours the vomiting ceases, gases are expelled, and the bowels are moved. Warm baths, formentations, and injections of milk and honey are always superadded. *Appropos* of this treatment, we take the liberty of telling a little anecdote. Some forty years ago a travelling preacher in England was taken sick with colic, in the house of a good old lady where he was spending the night. The good lady brought a bullet, which, after warning, she induced him to swallow. He was soon relieved from pain, and then began to reflect on the course of the bullet, and at least suggested to his nurse a doubt whether a body so heavy could find its way through the intestinal labyrinth, fearing that it would lodge there permanently. "You need not be the least afraid," said the lady cheeringly, "for that very bullet has gone through me at least twenty times!"—*Pacific Med. and Surg. Journal.*

Adulteration of Catechu.

J. Tissandier.—It is a well-known fact that catechu is too often adulterated; and the sophisticated substance has often injuriously affected various operations wherein it is employed, especially dyeing and calico-printing. According to this author, genuine catechu, when exhausted by means of ether, loses 53 per cent. of weight, leaving, after drying, 47 per cent. of residue. A mixture of catechu and alum gives a white precipitate with nitric acid and with chloride of barium.

Antidote to Carbolic Acid.

Sweet oil or castor oil swallowed in large quantities is recommended as the most efficient antidote to carbolic acid, when it has been taken in poisonous doses.

Trade Report.

The past month has been one of considerable activity with wholesale houses. Orders have been numerous, and business has been well sustained throughout.

A reference to our prices current shows a considerable advance in regard to some classes of goods; while others, owing to increased demand, are scarcely obtainable. This is the case with quinine; the manufacturers having to refuse numbers of large orders. We omit, altogether, quotations for this article. Bismuth and its preparations are higher. Opium has, as usual, been fluctuat-

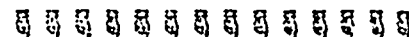
ing, and at present is steadily advancing. Owing to the war in Europe, the price of Bromide Potassium is much higher. Solazzi licorice, at date of last advices from London was quite out of market. Gentian is held at advanced rates, and cardamoms have gone up to an extreme figure.

Antim. tart, balsam cobaiiba, and tolu, cort. sassafra, oil wintergreen, cod liver oil, castor oil, sal. Epsom, and leptandrin are all quoted lower.

The demand for dyestuffs has been very large, and prices, with the exception of best Dutch madder, which is slightly lower, remain at former figures.

Oils have not been in such active demand, and prices are a little easier. Cod, and pale and straw seals are lower; genuine sperm is held at \$2.15 to \$2.25.

Paints, as last month, with the exception of genuine lead, in oil, which has fallen to \$2.30.



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