

exert a poisonous influence on those who work with it ; and paint made with it does not lose body or become semi-transparent from saponification of the oil, as is asserted of paint made from carbonate and oxide of lead. Its covering power, or body, is almost if not quite equal to that of white lead. It is prepared by precipitating a solution of sulphate of zinc by sulphide of sodium : adding chloride of barium, and collecting, washing, and calcining the precipitate. A small proportion of magnesia is also added during the process, and this ensures the " kindly " working of the resulting paint. The new pigment is now being manufactured on a large scale.

ACTION OF DILUTE NITRIC ACID ON BRUCIA.—Professor Sonnenschein asserted that by treatment of brucia by warm dilute nitric acid, strychnia, and other bodies were produced. Mr. Cownley denied this, and in the *Pharm. Jour. and Trans.* for April, 1876, gave an account of his experiments, which in no case gave evidence of the production of strychnia. Mr. Shenstone has lately gone over the same ground, and in an exhaustive paper in the *Pharm. Jour. and Trans.*, Feb., 1877, gives the result of his experiments, which are at variance with those of Prof. Sonnenschein, and confirm those of Mr. Cownley. He also describes a process for the purification of brucia, for the particulars of which we refer our readers to the original paper.

PREPARED GLYCERINE.—After experience with thirteen different methods or formulas for this preparation, Mr. T. J. Covell, (*Druggists' Circular*), strongly recommends the following, which produces an article similar to that known as " camphor ice with glycerine," or " prepared glycerine." Pressed lard, twenty-four ounces ; white wax, twenty ounces ; spermaceti, ten ounces ; camphor, six ounces. Melt the wax and spermaceti together, by means of a water bath ; add the lard and camphor, and when the latter is nearly all dissolved pour into suitable moulds or pots. This should be done at as low a temperature as possible. One drachm of essential oil of almonds to each pound of the compound will be found an agreeable perfume. The pressed lard above mentioned is that which remains after the lard oil has been separated by the manufacturers.

PROTECTION OF IRON FROM RUST.—In a lecture elsewhere alluded to as having been delivered by Professor Barff, a new process for the protection of iron surfaces was described. This consists