

to time, during three or four days, or until solidification took place. The compound had been tried to a limited extent by some members of the medical profession, and it was hoped that as it presented the bismuthic base in the condition most favorable for absorption it would prove "a remedy, or, at least, an adjuvant, in cutaneous affections of the exanthematous type, certainly superior to those insoluble compounds which have been hitherto employed."

SERUM SANGUINIS EXSICCATUM.—Dr. F. Vacher, of Birkenhead, England, who recently advocated the use of serum sanguinis as a therapeutic agent, and proposed some methods for its preservation, now finds those methods inconvenient and inefficient, and, in the *Practitioner* for December, states the results of experiments made to discover the best mode of overcoming the strong tendency to decomposition manifested by this very unstable remedy. It was found that when the clear serum was carefully dried, on plates, at a temperature below 145° , there were obtained bright yellow scales yielding an almost white powder, soluble in water, permanent, and capable of fulfilling all the therapeutical uses to which fresh serum may be applied. One ounce of the powder is about equal to ten times its weight of fresh serum.

FORMULA FOR THE SO-CALLED ERGOTIN.—Mr. C. L. Mitchell (*Am. Jour. Pharm.*) says that a very satisfactory product may be obtained by moistening eight ounces of ergot, in fine powder, with a mixture of two fluid drachms of acetic acid and eight fluid ounces of water; allowing the mixture to stand twenty-four hours; percolating with water; evaporating the percolate to four fluid ounces; adding an equal bulk of alcohol; allowing the mixture to stand several hours and then filtering and evaporating to the consistence of an extract. The product should equal about one-eighth the weight of the ergot, and is of about eight times the strength.

POISONOUS ACTION OF ALCOHOL ON DOGS.—A paper by MM. Dujardin, Beaumetz, and Audige, in *Comptes Rendus*, reproduced in the *Journal of the Chemical Society*, gives the results of experiments on the poisonous action of alcohol on dogs. The authors found that the amount required to produce death in twenty-four hours varied with the atomic composition of the alcohol. Thus the fatal dose per kilogram (about $2\frac{1}{2}$ pounds) of weight of the animal, adminis-