is soluble, the latter method is legitimate and preferable, but if the quantity is quite in excess, then it should be treated rather as a mixture and the material rubbed to a very fine powder, which is dispensed in the bottle as a sediment, but should have a "shake" label on it If the prescription simply directs, "ft. mist." dispense it with undissolved portion; if, however, it calls for "ft. solutio" I should send out only the filtered liquid.

But the suggestion I would urge on my brother pharmacists is to send out bright, clear fluids when solutions are called for, free from all sediment or flocculent matter, and this can be readily attained by judicious use of heat and filter paper. Avoid the use of the mortar in making solutions when possible. Always have plenty of distilled and filtered water on hand for use—unfiltered water should always be avoided, and water which may have the least suspicion of taint is never fit for any use in pharmacy. Have some chemical flasks at hand, ready for use in making solutions, funnels and filter paper, and never be afraid to use them, so that your solutions are tempting by their clearness, rather than repulsive, as many I have seen, because of the flocculent and sedimentary matter that ought not to have been present. —Peters, in Pharm. Record

TEMPERING COPPER.

POSSIBLE REDISCOVERY OF ONE OF THE LOST ARTS.

I have recently learned a fact that may, if generally known, lead to the tempering of copper. A man at work on the telegraph wires here had hold of a copper wire with nippers on one line trying to make a short circuit when the handle of his nippers touched the other copper wire, and instantly a piece of his nippers was melted off and a piece of copper had formed on the point of the nippers, and on trying to file off this copper he found it was tempered to such a hardness that the file would not cut it. My brother, S. C. Griffin, tried to file it to make sure that it was really tempered. The ancients knew how to temper copper, but no modern genius has been able to temper it. As copper is a finer metal than iron, if it could only be tempered it would make edge tools vastly superior to anything we now have, hence the importance of the discovery if once made practical.—[C. S. Griffin in Belfast Journal.

TINCTURE OF STROPHANTHUS.

As a result of experiments, I would suggest the following formula for the consideration of the Committee on Revision of the United States Pharmacopœia:—

Take of strophanthus seeds, ground to a No. 45 powder and dried at a temperature of 110° to 120° F., 1 troy ounce; benzin, alcohol, water—of each sufficient quantity to make 20 fluid ounces.

Pack the ground drug tightly in a cylindrical percolator and pour on benzin until the powder is saturated and the liquid begins to drop from the percolator; close the lower orifice and leaving a layer of 1 inch or more of the liquid above the powder, tightly cover the percolator and allow to macerate for 24 hours; then slowly percolate with the benzin until a few drops of the percolate evaporated from a watch-glass leave no oily residue. Then remove from the percolator, dry, and, if necessary, again reduce to powder, moisten with a small portion of a menstruum of 7 volumes of alcohol and 1 volume of water, repack tightly in the percolator and pour on menstruum, leaving 1 or 2 inches of supernatant liquid; cover the percolator and close the lower orifice and allow it to macerate for 48 hours; then percolate slowly, adding gradually menstruum of the above composition until 20 fluid ounces are obtained.

If it be thought desirable to maintain the present system of percentage strength for tinctures, the amount of finished product would be altered to 20 troy ounces.—[By George M. Beringer, Ph. G., in Am. Jour. Pharm.

ANTIPYRIN.

The use of antipyrin is contra-indicated.

1. In all cases of cardiac weakness.

2 In diphtherial affections in which there is evidence of myocarditic lesion.

3. After exhaustive hemorrhages.

4. During menstruation and dysmenorrhœa.

5. In catarrhal pneumonia generally, and lobar pneumonia when there is œdema of the lungs—heart failure.

6. In the latter stages of tuberculosis.

7. In all cases of great debility and exhaustion and in the latter stages of long-continued fevers.

It is believed that the foregoing contra-indications with regard to the administration of antipyrin and similar medicaments will receive the approval of physicians generally. —[Humphreys, in the Practitioner.

HITS ON THE PREPARATION OF IODIDE OF IRON.

1. Weigh 25 grams of iron (filings preferred). Do not throw in a scoopful because iron is cheap and the iodine will only dissolve to a certain amount anyway. A large excess is not only a useless waste, but a positive detriment.

2. Place the iron in a half-gallon evaporating-dish and pour on 200 c. cm. of distilled water and stir until the iron is thoroughly wet.

3. Weigh 82 grams of iodine and put into the dish all at once and stir briskly with a glass rod. In two or three minutes the action will be complete.

4. Now add 200 c. cm. more of distilled water and heat the whole to boiling; filter hot into the bottle in which you intend to keep the finished preparation (a common quart bottle is suitable).

5. Clean and dry your evaporating-dish and pour into it the filtered solution of iodide of iron; add 600 grams of granulated sugar free from ultramarine blue and heat once more to the boiling point, having made up the weight to 1000 grams, and strain hot into the bottle in which it is to be kept.

Practically there is usually nothing to make up in weight, and the syrup thus made will keep a long time without any special precautions. Time required for the process, about 30 minutes.—[P. C. W. in Pharm. Record.

INDUSTRIAL USES OF HYDROGEN PEROXIDE.

Hydrogen peroxide is now employed for bleaching silk, feathers, hair, ivory, bones, bristles, etc., and will, doubtless, soon be used for bleaching wool, and, if it was cheaper, even cotton.

For bleaching delicate materials, such as wool, feathers, etc., it should not be too strong; a solution of 1 in 10 is strong enough, and a bleaching vat of this solution may be used for quite a long time if the strength be kept up by fresh additions of hydrogen peroxide. The purer the peroxide is, the better it will work, and care should be taken to avoid the presence of things which decompose it and, of course, render it useless, such as metals, even a nail, iron rust, etc. The strength of a solution is very easily estimated by titration with permanganate. As a general disinfectant, it is not convenient, but is suitable for distribution as spray in sick-rooms. —[C. F. Goehring, in Chem. Zeit. and J. S. Chem. Ind.

TO DISTINGUISH MORPHINE FROM QUININE.

Morphine sulphate may be readily distinguished from quinine sulphate by the following off-hand tests:

1st. Place a few grains of the substance on a porcelain dish, and add to it a few drops of nitric acid. Morphine develops a bright reddish coloration; quinine does not.

2nd. Morphine sulphate dissolves readily in a small quantity of water: quinine sulphate does not.

3rd. Solution ferric chloride produces a blue coloration with solution morphine, but not with solution quinine.—[Drug. Bull.

A JAPANESE ADVERTISEMENT.

Here is an advertisement taken from a Yokahoma, Japan, newspaper, which is printed in English:—

For Sale.
Best Peppermint Oil
Made From It's Really Leafs.
Can be curable for the sickness of Male,
Female, or Boy.

Dizzy.—Use to put or wipe few drops on the forehead, both sides under eyebrows, nosholes, and both sides the back of cars.

Fever.—Wipe on the forehead and nosholes.

Fit.—Wipe most to the nosholes, and drink few drops mixed with tea.

Giddy.—Wipe both sides of forehead, and nosholes.

Gout or Goutswollen —Wipe both sides of forehead, nosholes, and much to the breast.

Headache.—Wipe on the forehead, and nosholes.

Believe us,
CHOY THOONG SUNG,
Tai-pin Gate outside Brass Smith Road.