

## SELECTIONS.

**CAMPOR A SOLVENT FOR IODOFORM.**—Camphor increases the solubility of iodoform in alcohol and ether. While one hundred parts of alcohol ordinarily dissolve not more than one and one-fourth parts of iodoform, the same amount of a saturated solution of camphor is capable of taking up as much as ten parts.—*American Practitioner and News.*

**EXAMINATION OF IODOFORM GAUZE.**—It is well to assure ourselves that iodoform gauze contains no coloring matter, which, while making it more attractive to the eye, injures its quality. Gauze treated with ether gives up all of its iodoform, and should become white. In solutions of caustic soda a good iodoform gauze holds its yellow color, while the dyed article turns gray, reddish or chestnut.—*M. Peccatt in Repert. de Phar.*

**RESORCIN IN PAINFUL ULCERS OF THE LEG.**—The *Therapeutische Monatshefte* states that Thier, of Vienna, reports great success in the treatment of painful ulcers of the leg with resorcin. The medicament is applied in the form of ointments containing from 5 to 25 per cent. of resorcin, according to the nature of the case. Pain disappears rapidly, healthy granulations appear, and, as a usual thing, convalescence is very rapid.

**HOT WATER AS A HEMOSTATIC IN DENTISTRY.**—Jul. Schelljun states, in the *Wiener Klinische Wochenschrift*, that in place of using cold water as a mouth wash after the extraction of teeth, he has for some time past used hot water as a hemostatic. His plan is to let the water fall, drop by drop, in the bleeding cavity. Hemorrhage is rapidly arrested and "soreness" much modified. The water should be just as hot as can be borne by the patient.

**QUININE PILLS** are recommended by E. Sohlet (*Bull. Soc. Roy. de Phar.*) to be made with lactic acid, of which three drops are stated to be sufficient to form a plastic mass with one gram of quinine sulphate. A somewhat larger quantity of the acid will be required in case other solid medicaments are to be incorporated. Since lactic acid is a normal constituent of the organism, its use for this purpose, in such a minute quantity, appears to be less objectionable than that of other acids.

**CLEAR MUCILAGE.**—A correspondent of the *Pharmaceutische Zeitung*, referring to the difficulty of keeping gum-arabic mucilage clear and sweet during the warm weather, states that a little ammonia generally suffices to counteract the acidity. This is objectionable because of the darkening of the color which is apt to ensue. Of all neutralizing agents there is none better than lime, and it will be found to make the mucilage with a mixture of 1 part of lime water and 4 parts of plain water.

**PSEUDOCONHYDRINE.**—This is the name given by Merck to a new crystalline base

isolated from the fruit of *conium maculatum* in his laboratory during the past year. It has been examined by Ladenburg, who finds that it is an isomer of conhydrine, and gives the formula  $C_8H_{17}NO$  for it. Pseudoconhydrine is separated by fractional distillation in vacuo from the portion of crude conium which comes over at a boiling point. When pure it crystallizes in needles, is easily soluble in alcohol, ether, and chloroform, and melts at about 98° C.

**MUAWINE.**—Among the new alkaloids introduced by Merck during the past year is one called by the awkward name of muawine. It is derived from the bark of a tree indigenous to Mozambique, and which the natives call muawi. The new alkaloid presents a very strong resemblance to erythrophleine. In physiological action it is found by Professor Robert to be very near to that alkaloid, but not identical with it. Muawine has been separated in a syrupy form, and it is believed to be amorphous. It is easily soluble in alcohol, ether and chloroform. The salts of muawine have not as yet been obtained in a crystalline form. The hydrobromate is a white powder, soluble in water, alcohol and chloroform.

**PILLS OF EXTRACT CANNABIS** are difficult to prepare because the extract cannot be readily uniformly incorporated. Either part of the extract will adhere to the sides of the mortar or to the pestle, or on account of its toughness, becomes stringy, so that it will not become uniformly distributed in the mass. The addition of alcohol is only admissible when the extract bears a small proportionate relation to the other ingredients of the pills. A dry extract cannot well be made by the usual method, the resinous character of the extract preventing this, but a tolerable preparation will be obtained if the extract is freed as much as possible from moisture, and then rubbed up with granulated sugar. The triturate may then be employed as dry extract.

**COCAINE INCOMPATIBLES.**—Cocaine is used in manifold mixtures, and often brought in contact with substances with which it is entirely incompatible. A. Brunner states that it is frequently prescribed with silver nitrate in ointments, when, as is probably not known to the prescriber, decomposition of the hydrochloride ensues with formation of insoluble chloride of silver, and a corresponding change in the cocaine. E. Schell, in the *Els-lothr Journ. d. Pharm.*, reports that if calomel and cocaine hydrochlorate are rubbed together chemical reaction sets in. Mercuric oxide, too, if dispensed in form of ointment containing cocaine hydrochlorate changes, so that the ointment, instead of producing an anesthetic effect upon the eyes, produces an exceedingly irritating one. This is due to the formation of oxychloride of mercury, the quantity of which depends on the amount of cocaine used, the intimacy of its mixture with the oxide, and the age of the ointment.—*Apoth. Ztg.*

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