

SELECTIONS.

PIXOL.—Under this name is put forward a kind of wood tar, rendered soluble in water for disinfecting purposes. To prepare it, three parts of the tar are heated with one part of soap, and three parts of 10 per cent. solution of potash added gradually. A clear, easily soluble liquid results. It is not caustic, only containing .4 per cent. free alkali. It has strong germicidal power.—*Repertoire de Pharmacie.*

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ALLIGATORINE.—This product is suggested as a basis for ointments. The fat of alligators is saponified by alcoholic potash, the soap decomposed by hydrochloric acid and the fatty acids—allegatoric acid, as the introducer terms it—mixed with cotton seed oil. This is what is termed alligatorine. It is urged that the metallic salts of this peculiar acid are readily absorbed by the skin.—*Repertoire de Pharmacie.*

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CALCIUM CREASOTINATE. A syrupy liquid containing 50 per cent. of kresol, miscible in all proportions with water, and prepared by mixing a thick milk of lime with crude kresol. Useful as a cheap disinfectant.

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PHEDURETINE.—This new body, whose composition is kept secret, is much praised as a diuretic and anti-migraine. It occurs in white crystals, tasteless, sparingly soluble in cold, more so in hot water. The dose is 7-15 grains twice a day.—*Pharm. Central.*

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GALLANOL, an anilide of gallic acid, is recommended on the Continent for the treatment of psoriasis and eczema. It is a crystalline substance, without color, and having a bitter taste. It is only slightly soluble in cold water, but is more soluble in alcohol, ether, and alkalies, forming with the last named a brown solution. It may be applied as an ointment with vaseline (strength from 1 in 5 to 1 in 30) or, in the case of psoriasis, after washing the spot with black soap it may be painted with a mixture of gallanol and chloroform, and, after drying, the surface coated with tramatcin.—*Chemist and Druggist.*

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COCAINE AND CALOMEL REACTION. A mixture of a cocaine salt with calomel turns gray upon moistening the mixture or breathing upon it, owing to reduction of mercury. W. Lenz calls attention to the fact that pilocarpin hydrochloride produces the same reaction as the cocaine and more intensely.—*Pharm. Centr.*

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OLEO CREASOTE.—This is a combination of wood creasote with oleic acid, prepared by Diehl; its use is preferable to a mere mixture of oil and creasote, as this appears to cause annoying symptoms. To

prepare it the oleic acid and the creasote are mixed in molecular proportions, and phosphorus trichloride added. The mixture is then warmed to 135° C., until the reaction which is energetic at first, is finished. The resulting oleo-creasote is decanted and washed with water, and then with water rendered alkaline with sodium carbonate. The product is then dried by means of anhydrous sulphate of soda, and filtered. It is a yellowish liquid of an oily consistence, having the taste of creasote, but with any causticity, insoluble in water, slightly soluble in alcohol, easily so in benzene or ether or the fatty oils. It is possible that decomposition takes place internally, for after administration the free phenols are found in the urine.—*Repertoire de Pharmacie.*

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AN ANTISEPTIC CATHARTIC.—The following prescription is employed by Eichler as a cathartic and antiseptic:

Salol	5j
Castor oil	5vi
Syrup of rhubarb	3vii
Cinnamon water	3v
Powdered gum arabic	q.s.

The whole is made into an emulsion, and one tablespoonful administered every hour until a purgative effect is obtained in cases of chronic diarrhoea, or else one full dose may be employed, using at the same time a disinfectant rectal injection containing 15 grains of salicylic acid to a pint of distilled water. The diet should be composed principally of milk and beef tea.—*L'Union Medicale.*

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CANCROINE.—The toxic decomposition product of cancer cells, to which the name cancroine has been given, is now on the market. As met with in commerce, it is artificially prepared by the action of phenol and citric acid upon an aqueous solution of neurin, and is probably identical with the natural cancroine.—*Gehe's Bericht.*

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TEUCRINE.—This body is being introduced by Professor von Mosetig, to whom our knowledge of the anti-tubercular effects of iodoform are due, as a local remedy for abscesses, lupus, and antinomycosis. The chief effect is that it produces a vigorous stimulation of the vasomotor nerves. It is a sterilised extract of *Teucrium scordium*.—*Gehe's Bericht.*

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LAUROTERANINE is an alkaloid discovered by Greshoff in members of different genera of the lauraceae. Its action resembles that of strychnine.

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MUAWINE is a poisonous alkaloid found in a Mozambique tree called "muawi." Its action very closely resembles that of erythrophleine.

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TONQUINOL is a new compound offered as a substitute for musk, and is said by the patentees (Germany) to be a deriva-

tive of a nitrated terpene and a nitrated sulpho-acid of xylol. Tonquinol is in the form of a white crystalline powder, which, after solution in fifty parts of alcohol, may be mixed with water in all proportions. It is claimed to be very permanent and cheaper than Baur's artificial musk.

Substitute for Rubber.

Another substitute for hard rubber has appeared in the field. According to the opinion of good judges, it is a combination of wood pulp and shellac. It certainly makes a pretty appearance, but whether it will be something that will really take the place of hard rubber is the question. For a number of years inventive genius has been at work to try and displace hard rubber by some cheaper article. Among the many substitutes was one known as diatite, which was a combination of diatomaceous earth (fossil flower) and shellac. This made excellent goods, but as it had to be struck up under the very heaviest pressure, the best constructed steel dies were found to give way under the severe usage, and, after a heroic struggle on the part of the inventors, diatite disappeared from the market.

Another scheme was to make an imitation hard rubber of wood pulp, impregnating the pores with an acid-resisting compound made of boiled vulcanized linseed, to which was added sulphur and shellac. This resisted the acid for a time, but, if the liquid was taken out of the jar, even for a short time, and the air allowed to get at the lining, it was found, that when next filled, it leaked like a sieve. Wood pulp was later treated with asphalt, and for some of the ordinary uses goods were made of this compound that were very cheap and fairly durable. Perhaps the most conspicuous success in this line was what is known as vulcanized fibre, which is wood pulp impregnated with certain resisting compounds and made up under enormous pressure. This has dydrosopic qualities which make it inferior to hard rubber; these same qualities, however, make it most excellent for water packing, as it absorbs a certain amount of water and fills the joint so tightly that it packs perfectly.

Almost all the compounds have had a gum basis, and a singular compound made of recovered rubber and wood pulp was used two or three years ago with excellent results. It, however, did not prove to be superior either in effectiveness or cheapness to the ordinary rubber compounds which did not contain a particle of pulp, showing conclusively that the excellence of the compound came from the rubber with which it was impregnated. The new compound is manufactured in East Boston, and for some of the smaller electrical work it is said that already large orders have been taken. The promoters, it is understood, are seeking for capital, and if they have solved the problem as they believe they have, they ought to be able to secure it.—*India Rubber World.*