

SELECTIONS.

A NEW test for hydrogen peroxide has been described by M. G. Deniges before the Paris Academy of Sciences. If a ten-per-cent. aqueous solution of ammonium molybdate is mixed with its own volume of concentrated sulphuric acid, and a few drops of hydrogen peroxide added to it, an intense yellow coloration is produced.

HOW TO MAKE HAND GRENADE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS. Anyone can make the hand grenade fire extinguishers, and at a small fraction of the prices charged in the market. Any light quart bottle will serve to hold the solution, which is composed of 1 pound of sal ammoniac, dissolved in about two quarts of water. *American Druggist.*

MENTHOL Pastiles have proven to be efficacious as a remedy for coughs. In England their use as such is extensive. The *Roschau* gives this formula for their preparation: Menthol 2, powdered sugar 100, simple syrup 10 and alcohol 10, to be made into a mass and divided into 100 pastiles. Keep in paraffine-lined or tin boxes.

GLYCERINUM Saponatum, a preparation made by Herbl, of 80 or 92 glycerin, 20 or 8 cocoanut oil soap, is recommended by him as a useful vehicle for the employment of medicinal preparations in dermatology.

CANODOL, A NEW ANÆSTHETIC (Dr. Plushkov). Canodol is a hydrocarbon which is obtained by the distillation of petroleum. It is a transparent volatile liquid, which gives out an odor of benzine, and is insoluble in water and in alcohol; it reduces the local temperature in the same manner as ether; at the end of a minute it produces a local anesthesia, which permits the performance of minor operations without the production of pain. The price of canodol is less than that of ether. — *Revue de Ther.*

PRESERVATION OF LARD James L. Demoville, Ph. G., finds the alum process for purifying lard all that can be desired. The lard is melted, a little powdered alum being stirred in; then strained, cooled, and upon an inclined slab rubbed briskly with a muller, while a stream of water is allowed to trickle over it.

For preserving the lard, experiments were made besides with benzoin, with balm of Gilead buds, storax, salicylic acid, turpentine and tolu. The best results were obtained by using one per cent. of balsam of tolu: the lard was white, kept well, and had its peculiar odor well masked by the slight but pleasant odor of the balsam.

SOLUBILITY OF SANTONIN IN CASTOR OIL. —In the *Apotheker Zeitung* for May 10, Reuter states that, having received a prescription calling for santonin dissolved in castor oil, he was led to experiment with the substances in order to settle the *questio vexata* of the solubility of santonin in the medium mentioned. The results were a practical confirmation of Flucki-

ger's earlier statements, which have been combatted, and which are in effect that even when reduced to powder and heated with the oil in a water bath, under constant agitation, santonin is soluble to the extent of not more than 4 per cent., and that on cooling the greater portion of this is redeposited. A 1 per-cent. solution deposited a portion of the crystals at the end of two days, while a $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 per-cent. solution remained clear at 15 C., for four days. We may therefore say that santonin is practically insoluble in less than 200 times its weight of castor oil, and then only when very finely powdered and heated with the oil.

SALOL is continually growing in importance, and its directions for its application are frequently pointed out. It seems likely that in the antiseptic treatment of the genito-urinary organs it will take a prominent place by virtue of its property of splitting up in the organism into thio-phenol compounds and salicylic acid as which it is excreted in the urine. Advantage has been taken of this property already for the treatment of gonorrhoea by the internal administration of the compound: by this means the seat of the infection can be thoroughly and frequently irrigated with an antiseptic liquid (the urine) more conveniently and thoroughly than by mechanical means, which also sometimes produce alterations in structure. This salol treatment has been very successful in the hands of a number of medical men. It is now being combined with copaiba balsam, in which it is considerably soluble, and given internally against gonorrhoea. In this way the antiseptic action of the salol is effectively combined with the specific action of copaiba balsam upon the mucous membranes. The results are very encouraging, and the treatment will, no doubt, be largely tried. It may also be interesting to pharmacists to know that olive oil will dissolve one-third of its weight of salol, whilst almond, turpentine, castor, and sandalwood oils will take up more than one-third of their weight of the remedy at ordinary temperatures.

ITALIAN patent medicine specialists are finding out that, so far as their trade is concerned, the golden age is past and the iron age has begun. Under the new sanitary regulations which recently came into force in Italy no preparation of the kind can be sold unless it has been approved of by the Superior Sanitary Council. Not long ago that body rejected 200 "specialties," and on May 13th, it refused its sanction to all those submitted to it, on the ground that "all contained remedies which cannot be used except under the directions of a medical man." Many were absolutely condemned as being either dangerous or composed of substances not possessing the virtues attributed to them.

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