danger arising from this modern form of Prince Rupert's drop. A chimney, placed upon a lighted lamp, suddenly exploded; the fragments of glass were projected a distance of twelve feet, in fact, struck the walls of the room, and a considerable part of the chimney was literally blown to powder. Many accidents similar to this have been reported, and we think the warning should be heeded, for very serious consequences might follow such explosions. An English druggist, while measuring cold water from the shop filter, at a temperature about equal to that of the air, and using for the purpose a two ounce graduated measure of toughened glass, was surprised to find the graduate fly into minute crystalline fragments, which were strewn in every direction about the floor. As he remarks, had the measure been used for strong acids or corrosive substances, the result might have been serious.

NEW EXCIPIENT FOR PILL MASS.—Several communications have been sent to the *Pharm. Jour. and Trans.*, in regard to a paper read before the British Pharmaceutical Conference, and which is reproduced in another part of this journal. In most of these exception is taken to the claims of the author as to the originality of the invention of a glycerine and tragacanth excipient. Mr. A. P. Baker directs attention to a paper published some six years ago, in which two formulæ are given; one containing two drachms of tragacanth and six of glycerine; and another, of softer consistence, containing one ounce of glycerin. Another correspondent says that he has for many years been using a similar compound—one drachm of tragacanth to the ounce, mixed by the aid of heat; and this he claims is superior to Mr. Welborn's excipient, in which oil of pimento is a very questionable constituent.

PREPARATION OF SULPHIDE OF IRON.—The ordinary process for preparing sulphide of iron, by means of subjecting a mixture of iron and sulphur to heat in a crucible, furnishes a very impure product. The sulphide made by bringing into contact roll brimstone and white-hot metal gives an unexceptionable product, but the process is wasteful of sulphur; considerable time is required to turn out large quantities of the compound. M. C. Mehu, of Paris, (*Zeitsch. Oest. Apoth. Ver.*) proposes a new method which is said to give as good a product as the process last named, and to be much more economical. One part of iron, in fine filings, is intimately mixed with two parts of finely powdered pyrites and placed in a Hessian crucible. The mixture is brought to a red heat and maintained at this temperature for thirty minutes, when it may be allowed to cool. Com-