

SELECTIONS.

PREPARATION OF CARVACROL.—If carvacrolechloralhydrate be heated with chloride of zinc for about 20 minutes in an apparatus having a condenser attachment at a temperature of 95° to 120° C., it can be readily decomposed into almost the exact equivalents of chlorine and carvacrol. It is advisable to dilute the mixture with glacial acetic acid, removing the acid after completion of the reaction, by distillation; the residual thick liquid is washed with water to remove the chloride of zinc, and afterwards further purified by rectification. Other chlorides or mineral acids may be used in place of zinc chloride. Carvacrol is employed chiefly as an antiseptic.—*Phar. Zeitung.*

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RESORCINOL.—Dr. Bielaiew (*Semaine Med.*) gives this name to a combination of resorcin and iodoform. It is recommended as an antiseptic.

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SODIUM SALICYLSULPHONATE.—Two new preparations have been recently introduced by the successors of the firm of Dr. F. von Heyden, which, from trials thus far made, promise to be equal or superior in efficacy to sodium salicylate in the treatment of rheumatism. Sodium salicylsulphonate is a fine crystalline odorless substance, having a sour and somewhat astringent taste. It is easily soluble in water but almost insoluble in ether and alcohol. Its formula is obtained by replacing a hydrogen atom of salicylic acid with one of SO_3Na . Orthoamido salicylic acid is salicylic acid in which an atom of hydrogen has been replaced by one of NH_2 . It is a whitish gray, amorphous, almost odorless, powder, insoluble in water, alcohol and ether and has a sweetish and not unpleasant taste.—*Pharmaceutische Post.*

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GLASSWOOL sometimes contains lead, so that we must be careful in filtering acids, &c., to see that the wool used is free from the objection.

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SEYCHELLES TURTLE OIL.—A gentleman has leased the Aldabra Islands, in the neighborhood of the Seychelles, in the Indian Ocean, and proposes to promote a company for utilizing the enormous supply of turtle which these islands provide. A large profit is, he thinks, to be made in preserving and canning the turtle oil for shipment to Europe, where its excellent medicinal properties, which are far in advance of cod-liver oil, would probably be much appreciated.

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BORO-BORAX—A NEW BORIC PREPARATION.—This preparation, discovered by M. Jaenicke, results from a mixture of equal parts of borax and boric acid in boiling water. The antiseptic and therapeutic properties of this mixture resemble those of boric acid, but it has a neutral reaction and is much more soluble. At ordinary

temperature 16 parts of boro-borax dissolve in 100 of water; at 100° F., 30 parts dissolve in 100 of water; at boiling temperature water dissolves 70 per cent. of the substance. Boro-borax is readily made by mixing in boiling water equal parts of borax and boric acid. On cooling, the greater part of the substance crystallizes out.

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EXTRACTS OF WALNUT for cosmetic purposes can now be purchased. One is a hydroalcoholic fluid extract of green walnut shells, and is intended for brown hair dye; the other is an ethereal alcoholic solid extract of the same substance. The solid extract is intended for the preparation of walnut pomade and essence.

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TETRATHIODICHLORIDESALICYLIC ACID is the formidable name of another new antiseptic. It is prepared by heating together salicylic acid and sulphur chloride. The product is dissolved in water by means of sodium carbonate and the solution super saturated with hydrochloric acid. The resulting precipitate is the new body.

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BORAX AS A REAGENT FOR ALOES.—L. Schonteten has observed that when a concentrated solution of borax is brought into contact with aloes, in the course of twenty minutes or so it assumes a marked green fluorescence, which, however, is not persistent. This reaction is sufficiently delicate to demonstrate the presence of 0.0001 part of aloes in a mixture in which that substance is present.

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TO TEST MERCURIAL OINTMENT, a writer in the *Union Pharmaceutique* recommends the saponification of the ointment by heating ten grams with caustic soda and weak alcohol. When the soap is dissolved and the separated mercury has settled to the bottom the solution is decanted off, the deposit again boiled with some alkali and spirit, and finally washed with ether. When the mercury is quite clean it is dried with filter paper and weighed.

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REFINED SACCHARIN is now placed on the market by a foreign manufacturer, who claims to have devised a method by which, on a manufacturing scale, the true saccharin or anhydro-ortho-sulphaminbenzoic acid can be separated from the para-sulphaminbenzoic acid, at present constituting 40 per cent. of the purest saccharin of commerce. While common saccharin is about 300 times as sweet as sugar the refined article is claimed to be 500 times as sweet.

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SAPROL, A NEW DISINFECTANT, is described as a dark-brown, oily substance, which lies upon the surface of fluids to which it is added, and these extracts from it its disinfecting constituents—phenol, creasol, and other products of coal tar which are soluble in water. Urine and feces impregnated with micro-organisms

—*staphylococcus pyogenes*, bacilli of cholera and typhoid fever, etc.,—can be effectually sterilized by saprol in the proportion of one per cent., and it is likely to prove of value, according to the author, in the disinfection of the dejecta and of fluids on a large scale, as in the case of barracks, prisons and schools. Sewage treated with saprol is said to retain its manurial value.

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ASAPROL.—Asaprol is a derivative of beta-naphthol (beta naphthol-alpha-monosulphonate of calcium) introduced by Stackler and Dulief, of Paris, as an antiseptic, antithermic and antirheumatic. It occurs in the form of a white powder, soluble in one-and-a-half parts of distilled water and three parts of alcohol, and is supposed to be prepared by heating one part of beta-naphthol with two parts of sulphuric acid at a temperature of 100° C., with the subsequent conversion of the free acid thus produced into the calcium salt. Investigations in the laboratory of Dujardin-Beaumetz show that this compound has marked influence over various forms of bacteria, and some tentative observations on man indicate that it will prove useful in the treatment of gout and rheumatism, and cases of its prompt curative action in acute articular rheumatism are now on record. It is also recommended in typhoid fever and influenza.

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MENTHOL-BENZOYL-ECGONIN is the name employed by a prominent physician and medical college professor in a Western city when prescribing pure cocain. It prevents the patient from knowing the ingredient in his order on the pharmacist; it also staggers the uninitiated pharmacist occasionally, unless he is well up in the literature and synonyms of new remedies. A similar use is made of *oxydimethylchinitrin* by a New York practitioner who wishes to prevent his patients from knowing that he prescribes antipyrin for them.

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TOLYPYRIN AND TOLYSAL.—Many attempts have been variously made of late by chemists to obtain a therapeutically utilizable body through the introduction of some group into the phenyl residue of phenyldimethylpyrazolon (antipyrin), which would be likely to possess some advantage in one or the other way over antipyrin. Success seems to have crowned the efforts of Riedel, of Berlin, in this direction, and he announces the introduction of two new products: Tolypyrin, or para-tolydimethylpyrazolon and Tolsal, or p-tolydimethylpyrazolon salicylate. Both are definite chemical compounds, and clinical reports on therapeutic applications are promised in an early issue of a Berlin medical journal. Advance reports describe tolsal as occurring in colorless crystals, melting at 100° to 102° C., almost insoluble in water, but readily dissolved in alcohol. This product will probably find first and best use in medicine.—*American Therapist.*