

TEST FOR TARTARIC IN CITRIC ACID.—A ready method of detecting the admixture of tartaric with citric acid is described by M. Cailletet in the *Répertoire de Pharmacie*. One gramme (say 15 grains) of the acid to be tested is introduced into a test tube and mixed by a glass rod with ten cubic centimetres (say $2\frac{1}{2}$ fl. drachms) of a saturated solution of bichromate of potash. If after, standing for about ten minutes, the mixture shows the orange color of the bichromate, the acid may be considered pure. With one per cent. of tartaric acid the mixture assumes a coffee-color; with five per cent., a distinct blackish-brown.

FRECKLES, AND HOW TO TREAT THEM.—Many remedial preparations of a more complicated character have been recommended, of which New Remedies gives the following:

R̄ Zinci sulpho-carbol.....	2 parts;
Glycerine.....	25 "
Aq. rosæ.....	25 "
Spiritus vini rect.....	5 "

Dissolve and mix. The freckled skin is to be anointed with this twice daily, the ointment being allowed to stay on from one-half to one hour, and then washed off with cold water. Anæmic persons should also take a mild ferruginous tonic. In the sunlight a dark veil should be worn.

A French journal recommends a collodion containing ten per cent. of its weight of sulpho-carbolate of zinc, as giving excellent results. The solutions of corrosive sublimate and other mercurial salts, often used for the purpose, are more or less dangerous, and should be avoided. The following lotion, which contains only a minute proportion of mercury, is harmless and well recommended:

R̄ Hydrarg. perchlor.	gr. v;
Acid hydrochlor.....	gtt. xxx;
Sacch. alb.	ʒ ij;
Spt. vin, rect.....	ʒ ij;
Aquæ rosæ.....	ʒ viij.

The following formula is also highly recommended:

R̄ Sulpho-carbolate of zinc....	1 part;
Collodion.....	45 parts;
Oil of lemon.....	1 part;
Absolute alcohol.....	5 parts.

The sulpho-carbolate of zinc should be reduced to an extremely fine powder, and should then be thoroughly incorporated with the fluid mixture.

Here is another, in which white mustard-seed and lemon juice are the chief ingredients:

R̄ Pulv. sinapis alb.....	ʒ iij;
Olei amygdal.....	ʒ ss.

Succi limonum, enough to make a thick paste. Mix. To be applied as an ointment.

It is also said that powdered nitre moistened with water, and applied night and morning, will soon remove all traces of freckles. An old-fashioned school prescription is sour milk or buttermilk, mixed with honey and water, and applied to the face.

DISPENSING MEMORANDA.—The duties of a pharmacist are two-fold. In the first place he has to satisfy himself that every preparation is properly made, and also properly preserved for use. In the second place, that these preparations be accurately dispensed in accordance with the prescriptions of the several branches of the medical profession. If the former be neglected no amount of accuracy in dispensing will secure uniform results, and if the latter be carelessly attended to, or conducted without a fair amount of intelligence, all the advantages of scientific training which may have been reasonably expected to result in success will be neutralized.

The February number of the *American Journal of Pharmacy* contains a report of an incident that is worth mentioning in connection with the subject of explosive mixtures. A druggist having dispensed a prescription for nitro-hydrochloric acid and tincture of cardamoms, handed the mixture to the messenger, who was in the act of putting it into his pocket, when he was startled by the bursting of the bottle, and the scattering of the contents over his clothes. Like Bruce's spider, the druggist tried again, and handed his second product to the messenger with the caution that he was not to shake it. This injunction, intensified by the bearer's own experience, postponed the *dénouement* until the bottle reached the patient's hands, when the cork was violently expelled, and acid and fumes spurted up into her face, nearly destroying her eyesight, and causing several days suffering. It is conjectured that the acids were mixed and put into the bottle without waiting for the consequent reaction to take place.

POISONING BY POTASSIUM CHLORATE. The April number of the *Druggists Circular* furnishes us with the particulars of a second case of poisoning by this salt, which has hitherto been considered, both by the medical and pharmaceutical professions generally, as rather an innocuous remedy, comparatively speaking. The first recorded case is that of Dr. Fountain, of Davenport, Iowa, who took one ounce at a dose, and fell a victim to his temerity. The second was that of a little daughter of Dr. Kauffman, of Minersville, Schuylkill county, aged two and half years, who chewed and swallowed about half an ounce of the crystalline salt, and died seven hours afterwards, with symptoms of gastric-enteritis, vomiting and purging; diluents and cathartics had been freely used, and all other appropriate measures adopted, but without avail. The child gave no indications of pain, but was apparently in a stupor all the time; there was a marked tendency to slumber.

REPertoire de Pharmacie.—J. CLOUET: "Arsenical Glucose." [In view of the fact that glucose is used at present in very large quantities by brewers, confectioners, and others, and that its consumption is likely to assume immense proportions, the author warns from the use of *glucose containing arsenic*, the presence of which is owing to impure sulphuric acid used in its preparation. He has met with samples of glucose containing from 0.015 to 0.109 gm. of arsenic in 100 gms. of glucose.]