

**PETROLEUM A REMEDY FOR MANGE AND BALDNESS.**—On the authority of a report of Consul Stevens, the *Pall Mall Gazette* says that petroleum may be employed with great advantage in the baldness to which cows, dogs, horses, etc., are subject. The petroleum should be refined, and rubbed in vigorously with the hand, at intervals of three days, and six or seven times in all. Consul Stevens noticed that a servant of his, who was prematurely bald, and who, when trimming the lamps, was in the habit of wiping his fingers on the scanty locks which remained, soon realized the benefit of the petroleum treatment, for, in three months of lamp trimming experiences, his dirty habit procured for him a finer head of glossy black hair than he ever remembered possessing. We can corroborate the statement regarding the efficacy of petroleum in loss of hair in animals. An old retriever, belonging to a friend of ours, lost nearly all his hair, last spring, and became quite mangey. We recommended petroleum, and two applications, made about a month apart, completely cured the disease. The dog has now as fine a coat of hair as he ever had in his younger days. It is suggested that the remedy might be tried on man, but the disagreeable odor of the oil would be much against its employment.

---

**MICA SCALE-PANS.**—At a meeting of the American Chemical Society, reported in the *American Chemist*, Mr. W. J. Land read a short paper advocating the use of mica scale-pans for delicate balances, in place of the glass pans now used. The latter weigh about thirty grammes, while mica plates do not weigh one-tenth of this amount. By the balance being thus relieved of part of its load its sensitiveness is much increased. A great advantage of the mica is its flexibility, which enables one to dispose of weighed material with rapidity and exactness, as by bending the mica into a semi-cylindrical form it can be adopted to the mouth of flasks, etc., with the greatest ease. After three years' daily use the author says that he finds his mica-pans as good as at first. Small discs of mica form excellent transparent covers for platinum and porcelain crucibles when the heat applied does not exceed low redness.

---

**OLEATE OF BISMUTH.**—Mr. S. C. Betty brought before the notice of the British Pharmaceutical Society a solution of bismuth in oleic acid, so that the compound contained twenty per cent of the base. In order to dissolve this large amount it was necessary to powder very finely the oxide of bismuth; gradually incorporate it with the oleic acid, heat the mixture to a temperature near its boiling point; allow it to cool to about 60°; and agitate from time