

collodium film opaque. The preparation, at one operation, of a larger quantity of collodium cotton than 30 grammes appears to alter somewhat the optical behaviour of the collodium; and the same result is obtained if the last traces of acid are removed by ammonia.—*N. Repert. f. Pharm.*, 1872, N. 1, p. 6, in *Am. Jour. Phar.*

DIGITALIS AN ANAPHRODISIAC.—M. Gourvat is publishing, in the *Gaz. Med. de Paris*, a series of papers on the action of digitalis. In a late number (Dec. 23rd, 1871) we find the following:—"When the digitalis or digitaline is administered for some time to a man in full possession of sexual powers, the latter become gradually weakened, the propensities disappear, the liquor seminis diminishes by degrees, and may at last vanish altogether. These results are explained by the antiplastic and lowering action of digitalis. The antiphlogistic properties of the drug are the secret of its good effect in spermatorrhœa. With women, digitalis and digitaline excite strong, regular and intermittent uterine contractions, and control metrorrhagia; hence digitalis is employed in exciting abortion. (Tardieu.) It is probable that digitalis acts as an anaphrodisiac in women also, inducing, by long-continued use, impotence and sterility. In men it hinders the secretion of the liquor seminis, and in women it may interfere with the development of the Graafian vesicles, the propagation of the species being thus doubly retarded."—*Lancet*, Jan. 13, 1872.

POISONING BY VANILLA-ICES.—The German medical journals call attention to the circumstance that several cases of poisoning by vanilla-ices have in late years occurred in Paris, Altona, Munich, Vienna, and other places. Maurer has recently related an instance in which, after the use of these ices, a large family suffered from the symptoms described as having been present in the other cases, viz., frequent vomiting, diarrhea, assuming in some of the patients a choleric form character. All the patients recovered. What the nature of the poison is, has not yet been ascertained. In two observations on the remaining portions of the poisonous ices, traces of lead, iron, and tin were present; but the combination of lactic acid with oxide of tin has been ascertained not to be poisonous. Schroff believes that the poison is produced by the use of cashew-nut oil to besmear the vanilla-pods.—*Phila. Med. and Surg. Rep.*

PREPARATION OF PURE METALLIC SILVER.—Dr. Grager.—The author dissolves the alloy of silver in nitric acid, taking care to use as small a quantity as possible; the solution is then transferred to a large-sized porcelain basin, and gradually neutralized with previously lixiviated chalk free from chlorine. The neutralized liquid is next boiled, and chalk again added to it, while boiling, until the fluid has become colorless (in order to test more accurately, a drop of the liquid is poured on a piece of white filtering paper, and next to that drop is placed one of a solution of ferrocyanide of potassium; as long as the well-known red coloration, copper reaction, hereby ensues, chalk is added). The fluid is next filtered, to separate the carbonate of copper, and the filtrate (a solution of nitrate of silver and nitrate of lime) is again boiled, and either further treated with carbonate of lime or, better still, with carbonate of soda; the bright yellow colored precipitate thereby ensuing, a mixture of carbonate of silver and carbonate of lime, is washed, dried and ignited, leaving a greyish white mass of metallic silver mixed with carbonate of lime; this mixture is treated with dilute hydrochloric acid, washed with distilled water, and then fused along with borax, yielding pure silver. The bright green-colored carbonate of copper can be used as a pigment for painting purposes.—*Dingler's Polyt. Jour.*, in *Chem. News*, March, 1872.