

An ointment made of the yellow oxide is undoubtedly preferable to one made with the ordinary red precipitate of the shops; but when the latter is properly triturated and thoroughly mixed with the glycerine plasma of proper consistence, it seems to leave nothing to be desired as an ophthalmic ointment.

Unfortunately, it is very difficult to procure a reliable preparation of the plasma of the red oxide of mercury, and one carelessly prepared is worse than useless. The apothecary objects to the trouble and length of time involved in its preparation, unless it is ordered in large quantities. For many years, the only reliable preparation that I could obtain was that of the firm of Moore & Brierly, Hamilton; but of late, Mr. H. J. Rose, of Toronto, has been supplying the preparation used both at the Eye Infirmary and in my private practice. Mr. Rose's formula is as follows:

"To make simple plasma or *Glycerinum Amyli B.P.*, take 1 oz. starch and 8 fluid oz. pure glycerine (I find corn starch to make the best product, though it seems to require a greater degree of heat), rub the starch with an ounce of distilled water till quite blended, then add the glycerine and apply heat, gradually increased, till a thick jelly is produced. The preparation must be constantly and thoroughly stirred while making, and if an appearance of granular lumps is shown, squeeze the product before it is cold through cheese-cloth, or doubled muslin, previously well washed to remove any loose fibres.

"To make the mercurial plasma, it is necessary to have a perfectly smooth and even-surfaced mortar and pestle, in order to obtain the oxide in an impalpable powder. While triturating, keep it moist by the addition of rectified spirit from time to time. Care is also required to keep the powder, which may adhere to the pestle, scraped off very frequently. When thoroughly triturated, the simple plasma is added in the desired proportion, and mixed thoroughly.

"The efficiency of the trituration may be best tested by rubbing a few grains of the plasma on a piece of fine white paper. On holding this up to the light, there should be no appearance whatever of any specks."