

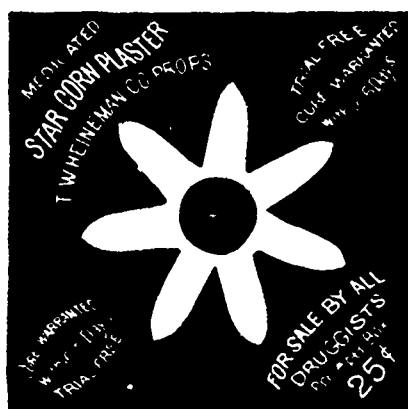
articles, which are so highly thought of in the West Indies that a sample (a small basket) was sent to the Queen as a Jubilee present, and was shown in St. James' Palace. Recently the uses of the loofah have been greatly extended by a German manufacturer established at Halle on the Saale. He makes from them loofah soles, which have to a large extent replaced those made of straw and felt. The loofah soles warm the feet in winter and cool them in summer, keeping them constantly dry. They are extremely elastic and easily washed with soap and water. Saddle undercloths are also made from loofahs, which have the virtue of preventing the animal from remaining wet under the saddle after sweating. But what may be considered the most important application of the loofah is in the manufacture of surgical bandage stuffs. Bandages made of this material are competing closely with the wool-wool kind, which were introduced some time ago. There are unquestionably other uses to which the loofah might be applied, and as enormous quantities are attainable at a low rate (some bales were a year ago sold in London at a rate of five a penny), further applications are only a question of time. The seeds of the loofah contain fixed oil, but this is too small quantity (2.5 per cent.) to pay for its extraction. The mucilaginous matter is so rich in bassorin that an infusion of the fruit becomes almost solid on cooling. A congener, *Luffa binala*, is used in India medicinally as a remedy for carbuncle. For this purpose an infusion of the fruit is used as a fomentation, which causes the slough to come out entire. There are other species, *L. purgans* and *L. drastica*—the fruits of which are known as American colocynth—possess powerful purgative properties, as might be expected of cucurbitaceous plants. Several are of a bitter character, e.g., *L. echinata*, an Indian plant, the fruit-fibre of which, according to Dymock, is intensely bitter, and is used medicinally by the Hindus. —[Chemist and Druggist.

**PHENOL CAMPHOR** is prepared by dissolving three parts of camphor in one part of carbolic acid. This produces a rather thin, clear, yellowish liquid, with a strongly camphoraceous taste and smell, which is used in dentistry for preventing suppuration, unlike carbolic acid, it is painless in its action.

**QUERIES WANTED.**—At the San Francisco meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association a resolution was passed requesting the members to propose such queries as they would like to see answered next year. Such queries should be forwarded at once to the chairman of the section on scientific papers, H. M. Whelpley, St. Louis, Mo. Members who have decided to write papers should send the titles to the same address.

Pestle-handles have the knack of parting company with the head. When this happens heat the head well, and half fill the socket with melted shellac; having wound a piece of twine in a spiral round the handle, press it into the socket.

Lady customer: "Have you any reliable corn solvent—something you can recommend?" Chemist: "Certainly, madam, here's an article. One customer of mine has been using nothing else for fourteen years."



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