

CHAPTER V.

GENERAL HINTS.

§ 1. MANY GENERAL SUGGESTIONS.

To perforate a rubber stopper, take an ordinary cork borer used for perforating cork stoppers, and heat it in the lamp flame until it becomes quite hot. The stopper may then be easily and quickly perforated. A much better method is to use a solution of caustic potash as a lubricant on the borer.

It is sometimes difficult to attach a piece of rubber tubing to glass tubing. This may be done by wetting the glass tubing with water. The rubber will then slip over the glass quite easily.

When a piece of rubber tubing is larger than the glass tubing it is best to first place a short piece of rubber tubing half an inch long over the glass tubing. The first piece of rubber should be about the same size as the glass tubing. Then place the larger rubber tubing over the smaller piece. This will make the joint quite air-tight.

Adhesive or surgeon's plaster will be found very valuable in the laboratory. It may be used to tighten stoppers in bottles or to make a piece of glass tubing air-tight in a stopper. There are many ways in which it will be found useful in fitting up apparatus, but it cannot be used where heat is applied to the glass vessel.

In filling a narrow glass tube closed at one end with mercury or any other liquid, it will often be found convenient