

acid in a specially assimilable form. It has been administered *per os*, and by subcutaneous injection in ataxia, sciatica, and neurasthenia. The potassium, ammonium, and sodium salts are also prepared, and the dose for injection is about five grains three times a day. If taken *per os*, the dose must be larger. *Tussol*, a saline combination of mandelic acid and antipyrin, which is stated to be more effective than antipyrin, and, as the name suggests, is introduced as a cough remedy. The dose, for adults, is 10 to 15 grains; children, less in proportion to age. *Dermol* is a compound of chrysophanic acid and bismuth, stated to have the formula $\text{Bi}(\text{C}_{10} - \text{H}_8 \text{O}_5)_2 \text{Bi O}_3$. It is an amorphous yellow powder, and recommended in skin affections as a substitute for dermatol—the basic gallate of bismuth—either in the form of dusting powder or ointment. *Formalin*, the name given to formaldehyde, is a powerful antiseptic, preservative, and disinfectant. It is supplied in a concentrated state, containing at least 40 per cent. of formaldehyde. *Iodo-cresol*, or, more correctly, tri-iodo-cresol, is a crystalline substance, soluble in chloroform, fats, and oils, but only sparingly soluble in alcohol. It is characterized by its freedom from color and smell. Therapeutic data are yet wanting. Aluminium has been a fruitful source of new remedies of recent years, and *aluminium boroformate* is the latest. It is readily soluble in water, and recommended in place of alumnol, being milder in its effect, whilst equally antiseptic, and, therefore, particularly adapted for application to the throat. Amongst those which have also appeared in our columns are *antitetraizine*, *ingestol*, *lignosulfine*, etc.

PHARMACY.

The most important event of general interest to pharmacists has been the announcement of an Imperial Pharmacopœia, specially designed to meet the wants of the British colonies. The work of revision will be taken in hand towards the end of this year, and already several suggestions have been tendered from India and Australia. It is of great importance that Canada should formulate recommendations, so as to bring the British Pharmacopœia more into line with everyday requirements. To this end early co-operation of Canadian physicians and pharmacists is very desirable, and we have already urged the provincial associations to take prompt action in the matter.

New editions of the Swiss and Bulgarian Pharmacopœias have appeared during 1894, and comments and criticisms have freely flowed in the pharmaceutical press respecting the new United States Pharmacopœia.

The International Congress of Hygiene took place at Buda-Pesth, Hungary, in September. The usual resolutions in favor of an international pharmacopœia were passed by the pharmacy section, but little of importance transpired.

Among the numerous papers dealing with improvements in pharmacy published during the year, we can only select a few for special notice. Granular effervescent preparations have been ably dealt with by Bradley. Tinctures have received further attention from Farr and Wright, whilst Dodsley has recommended some improved methods for their manufacture, and Parker has made several good suggestions to recover the spirit left in the marc. White considers that infusions may be kept any reasonable length of time if sterilization is effected and a minute quantity of chloroform added, as a preservative. Infusions prepared from concentrated preparations rarely agree with recently-prepared specimens, says Barclay. Spirit of nitrous ether can be kept nearly two years without suffering much depreciation, according to Jones, if the bottles containing it are stoppered, luted, and stored in a cool cellar. McDonnell suggested the more rapid preparation of iodine ointment by merely heating the iodine and lard together, stirring well till dissolved. Henry recommended a tincture of iodine of the strength 1 in 16, which should replace the present liniment and tincture of the British Pharmacopœia. Simple resin and eucalyptus ointments are best prepared without any stirring during the cooling, as recommended in the case of ceratum resinæ. United States Pharmacopœia advocates *Boa Miss Crete*, which has been the subject of a paper by Professor Scoville, who hints that precipitated chalk is frequently used instead of prepared chalk, as the product is whiter. This practice is, of course, reprehended. Glucose is a perennial recommendation as a substitute for syrup in preparations, like syrup of iodide of iron, prone to change. The original formula for *Bland's pills* is published by Ince: Dried sulphate of iron, 30; dried carbonate of potassium, 30; powdered gum acacia, 5; water, 30; syrup, 15. This quantity in grammes to produce 120 pills. Note that a medical committee has announced that the pharmacopœial dose for antifebrin, 4 to 10 grains, is excessive; the proper dosage is from 1 to 4 grains.

PHARMACOGNOSY.

A good deal of solid work has been done in clearing up the pharmacognosy of some of the lesser known drugs. Hooper finds an alkaloid in *Abrus precatorius* root with glycyrrhizin and an acid resin. The *aconite* investigation of Professor Dunstan and his pupils has not advanced much, whilst an amusing controversy as to priority in discovery has taken place between Dunstan and Freund. There is no doubt that aconitine splits up, when heated, into acetic acid and another alkaloid. Keller obtained .87 to 1.23 per cent. of aconitine from aconite root. Dr. Aitchison reported that *asafetida* is certainly not the product of *Ferula Narthex*, nor is it collected in Kashmir, but comes from Afghanistan proper. Greenish discovered asphodel root as an adulterant of

white hellebore. *Balsam of Peru* has been examined by Trog, who finds that the fluid part is benzyl benzoate with cinnamic acid and vanillin. *Cactus grandiflorus*, recommended very highly some few years back as a heart-tonic, is reported by Gordon Sharp to be inert, and certainly produces no effects, pharmacologically, comparable to digitalis. *Cayenne pepper* adulterated with rice has been detected in Washington. *Cinnamon* and *cassia* barks have been carefully compared by Pfister. Schmidt criticizes the description of *chrysarobin* and *chrysophanic acid* given in various pharmacopœias. The former gives a yellow color with sulphuric acid and brown with caustic potash, whilst the chrysophanic acid gives a red color with the acid and blue with potash. Schorm purifies *coniine* and *nicotine* from their hydrochlorates by means of peroxide of hydrogen. *Dorstenia contrayerva* is reported by Mussi to yield an amorphous alkaloid, *contrayervine*, which forms a white tartarate. The plant is used in Brazil as an antidote to snake bites. *Ergot* has yielded to Bohringer yet another active constituent, *spasmodin* or *sphacelotoxin*, which is stated to be very active in doses of 4 to 8 centigrammes. *Eserine* crystallizes from benzene in large flat prisms, and melts at 105-106° C., according to Petit. *Guaiacol* is best applied by painting doses of 4 grammes upon the skin, when 50 per cent. is absorbed and may be obtained from the urine, state Linnessier and Lannois. *Ginger* is being considerably adulterated with exhausted ginger, and may be detected by the ash. Pohl has given a concise botanical description of *hydrastis* and localized berberine. *Ipecacuanha* is being thoroughly examined by Paul and Cownley, who report that emetine is a mixture of at least two alkaloids. The ash of *kamala* contains a considerable proportion of manganese, and so-called kamaline is rottlerin, $\text{C}_{11} \text{H}_{10} \text{O}_3$, says Bartolotti. *Kola* is the subject of almost the last monograph written by Professor Flückiger. In his usual masterly fashion, he traced the history of the drug and its chemical constituents. The paper was published in our October issue. *Konso* yields a highly active substance, *kosotoxin*, according to Leichsenring; but commercial *kosin* is not a natural constituent, and is formed during isolation. *Jaborandi* leaves are scarce, and another *pilocarpus* plant has been substituted, called *ceara jaborandi*, which is practically devoid of *pilocarpine*. Oils have been examined by Schimmel during the year, and much interesting information supplied. *Oil of eucalyptus* is the subject of a recent note by Holmes, in which he gives valuable results obtained by Payne. The average yield of *eucalyptol* is about fifty per cent. from four or five different species. *Pereira bark* has yielded *vellotine* to Freund, which has a similar action to *brucine*. *Sugar of milk* sometimes contains as much as 1.5 per cent. of ash, chiefly MgO , so Braithwaite recommends a limit of 0.25 per cent. *Saffron* should not lose more than 12 per cent. of moisture at 202° F., and 7 per cent. of ash on