

be a fine saw, salicylic acid is now stated to be a solvent, and accordingly to be abjured. Dr. Buch mentions that he was in the habit of using a solution of three parts in one thousand of salicylic acid, a lotion of such strength being fatal to bacteria. In a few weeks he felt a curious sensation in his mouth; the teeth appeared to become softer, and on the surface something gritty was detected, there being evidently a granular formation. The Doctor believes this to be a salicylate of lime; if so, the use of the acid as a dentifrice should be discountenanced.

The ex-Empress Eugénie, when in power, patronized a poudre dentifrice made from the charcoal of the willow-bark. The preparation commanded a large sale, but went out of vogue long before the fall of Imperialism.

We may here venture to allude to a preparation which, for occasional and careful use, is a valuable remedy for yellow, blackened, and unsightly teeth. It consists of equal parts of finely-powdered wood charcoal, prepared chalk, and cream of tartar. A few applications are sufficient to effect a decided change, followed by a wash of myrrh, eau de cologne, and glycerine. It is suggested as a trial remedy, to be used when wanted, not as a toilet requisite.—*Chemist and Druggist*.

DETECTION OF SALICYLIC ACID IN MIXTURES.—Concentrate the mixture in the water-bath, to remove any accompanying alcohol, add to the residue dilute sulphuric acid in strong excess, so as to render it strongly acid and to restore it to a fluid condition, and shake the whole with ether, which dissolves the salicylic acid. On evaporating the ethereal solution, the acid is left behind, and may be weighed.—*Pharm. Centralh.*, 1877, 321.

COATED PILLS.—Pills have a verbal as well as a material coating. Mr. G. H. Wright, of Southwark, writing in a recent number of the *Pharmaceutical Journal*, gives the following list of popular names for purgative pills, used in his locality: Wake-me-ups, rattlers, eye-openers, scavengers, early risers, castor oil pills, excavators, five o'clockers, fly-away jacks, and imperial pills.—*British Medical Journal*.

COFFEE AS AN ANTIDOTE TO STRYCHNIA.—Dr. Attilio Lelli having met with a case in which a large dose of strychnia was administered in coffee without fatal consequences, was led to institute some experiments to determine whether it possessed an antitoxic power against this drug. The animals employed were rabbits, and by comparative trials he found that a dose of five centigrammes proved fatal in a short space of time; when the same or a larger dose was given in a very strong infusion of coffee, he found that the coffee either acted as a complete antidote in preventing the poisonous effects of the strychnia, or that it materially diminished

the violence of its action. The details of the experiments are given in the *Rivista Sperimentale di Freniatria*, edited by Prof. Carlo Livi, of which the first Fasciculus of the third volume has just been issued.—*London Lancet*.

FALSE SUMBUL.—Mr. Holmes, the curator of our Society's Museum, has obligingly shown us and described the sample of false sumbul, alluded to in several of the current periodicals. It is hard to draw conclusion from any single specimen. The one which he has under examination seems more compact, heavier, and less flat generally than the ordinary commercial root. True sumbul has a curious way of disintegrating when forced apart by pressure between the hands. Nevertheless, some pieces of this sample are almost as light as the genuine article, and in appearance might easily be mistaken for it. The red color of the tincture, however, would instantly suggest either a distinct variety or sophistication, while the flavor of the preparation, decidedly that of ammoniacum, is conclusive evidence of its spurious nature. True sumbul, like musk or abelmoschus, has a diffusive, penetrating, aromatic taste, wanting in the tincture of the false root.—*Chemist and Druggist*.

OIL OF EGGS: A VALUABLE RECIPE.—A German apothecary's apprentice describes the mode of preparing "oil of eggs" as follows:—"I call on the lady of the house for one dozen eggs; I boil the eggs, separate the yolks from the whites; the clerks eat the yolks, the white is for the apprentice; into the bottle I pour oil of poppy seed."—*Detroit Lancet*.

SUBSTITUTE FOR PERSIAN INSECT POWDER.—The *Industria Blatter* of Berlin recommends the use of the wild rosemary (*Ledum palustre*) as a substitute for the well-known Persian powder. This plant, whether fresh or dry, will kill lice, bed-bugs, fleas, moths, beetles, and their larvæ, the maggots and blue-bottles, and probably other insects. It is also the best remedy for mosquito-bites, and the bites of all other insects. A little of the tincture of the plant applied to the bite not only relieves the intolerable itching, but also relieves the pain. If the tincture be mixed with glycerine and rubbed on the skin, it will drive the mosquitoes away. If this be a fact, the plant deserves special attention. It is very probable that it will be able to entirely supplant the expensive and frequently adulterated or counterfeit insect powder. It is most effective when green and in bloom, at which time it should be gathered.

TINCTURE STOPPERS.—The unpleasant cementing of stoppers can be entirely prevented by rubbing the stoppers with a piece of paraffine, and giving them a turn in the neck of the bottle, so as to distribute a thin coating of paraffine all over. Renew two or three times a year.—*Phil. Druggist and Chemist*.