

or cold where mechanical pressure can be used freely. It appears to be quite impervious to the vapor of ether. The felt is simply soaked on the melted gelatine and glycerine, and the superfluous quantity pressed or drained out. Corks and bungs may be saturated with the same compound by being boiled in it for half an hour, and kept submerged till the temperature has fallen considerably. If then drained, and the superfluous jelly rubbed off the outside, they are in a condition suitable for stopping vessels of ether, sulphite of carbon, or benzine.

Glass stoppers may be lubricated with this glycerine jelly in some cases where oily lubricants would be objectionable.

Probably casks might advantageously be lined with a similar compound before being used for petroleum or coal oils.

CASES OF POISONING IN ENGLAND.

In publishing a resumé of the events of the past year the *Pharmaceutical Journal* of London, says that the particulars of eighty cases of fatal poisoning have been reported, the number of deaths due to each poisonous agent being as follows:—aconite, 2; annatto, 1; antimony, 1; carbolic acid, 6; chloral hydrate, 8; chlorodyne (Towle's), 1; cordials for children, 5; cyanide of potassium 6; "fly oil," 1; hydrochloric acid, 3; laudanum, 11, liniments, 3; liquor potassæ, 1; lotion, 1; mixtures, 5; morphia, 2; ænanthe crocata, 2; opium, 3; oxalic acid, 2; paraffin, 1; phosphorus, 1; prussic acid, 6; strychnia, 2; vermin killer, 4; white hellebore, 1; yew leaves, 1. This list shows a considerable increase upon those recorded in the previous two years, in each of which the number of cases was only 46. But how far this is due to an actual increase in the number of cases of poisoning in this country or to the increased vigilance of our friends in keeping us informed of the inquests we are unable to say; we are inclined to attribute it chiefly to the latter cause. Still in considering what may be termed the more notable cases of last year such as have probably been recorded almost without exception in other years, there is much that is very suggestive. Five deaths have resulted from mistakes in connection with the dispensing counter: two of them (one in a surgery and one in a chemist's shop) arose from confusion of the bottles upon the counter after making up; two (one in a surgery and one in a dispensary) were mistakes in dispensing, and one the selling by a chemist of a poisonous for a non-poisonous substance, apparently part of unexamined old stock. Of the eight deaths from chloral hydrate seven were the results of overdose taken by persons in the habit of using this compound as a narcotic. The comparative frequency of similar occurrences has led the medical press almost without excep-