

also. At one time there was an idea that the active ingredients had to be dried so very hard before the application of sugar that an insoluble drug resulted, but this is proved to be not the case. It is perhaps unfortunate that good specimens of the confectioners' art cannot be produced at the dispensing counter. Still the demand is all in favor of pleasant medication, and the druggist who does not supply sugar-coated tablets, pearl-coated pills or tasteless 'cachets' is likely to be considered to be behind the times. In England we have Allen & Hanburys; Wyley & Co., and Burroughs, Wellcome & Co., all manufacturing sugar-coated tablets with superior finish and of exceptional quality.

In no department has the compressed tablet proved a greater success than in photography. Chemicals that will not keep for long in solution may be kept indefinitely in the compressed form if only stored in a dry place. Pyrogalllic acid is an excellent case in point, and chemists who take up the sale of photographic chemicals should certainly include all the usual formulae of developers, restrainers, toners, etc., so that exact and definite solutions can be readily prepared by the amateur. As they can be supplied at the rate of 50 or 100 tablets good prices can be obtained and no experience is necessary to successfully compress such bodies as pyro hydroquinone, etc.

#### The Prospects for Camphor.

The Japanese Government having passed a bill which will come into force July 1st providing for government control of the camphor industry in that Empire, will be particularly interesting to the trade. From the fact that nearly, if not all, the supply of crude camphor comes from Japan, and the probability being that the government will endeavor to make it a material source of revenue would indicate a firmness and probably an advance in price which, no doubt, will be permanent.

Most of the camphor is obtained in the forest of the island of Formosa, and the inhabitants of the interior are principally savages, who will, no doubt, have to be under the surveillance of government troops in order to prevent the spoilage of the forests and the purloining of the gum. The Japanese Government will plainly have a monopoly of the camphor industry, and unless their care of the forest and the increased production consequent thereupon, brings in a larger supply than demand calls for, the indications are that prices cannot be expected to remain even as at present.

## Gleanings.

**CEARIN.**—This is a white, rather soft ointment-base, consisting of one part of carnauba wax and four parts of liquid paraffin. According to Issleib, <sup>22</sup> it is chemically unchangeable, ointments of potassium iodide (without sodium hyposulphite) and of red mercuric oxide remaining unaltered for eight months; furthermore, it will take up about 15 per cent. of water.—*Merck's Archives*.

**GLUTOID CAPSULES** is the name given to gelatin capsules that have been treated with formaldehyde, which renders them insoluble in acids, and thus enables them to pass through the stomach undissolved. On reaching the alkaline pancreatic fluid they are rapidly dissolved, the time required for solution being in direct ratio to the degree of hardening effected by the formaldehyde.

**CASANTHROL.**—This is the name given by Unna (*Pharm. Post*) to a water-soluble skin varnish consisting of casein ointment and 10 per cent. of ether and benzol-soluble constituents of coal tar. It forms a thick, tenacious emulsion which dries very readily on skin, leaving an elastic coating pervious to perspiration. It is useful in the eczemas and prurigo of infants, and other skin affections.—*Amer. Med. Surg. Bull.*

**POWDERED CARBOLIC ACID.**—According to the *Chem. Zeitung* carbolic acid can be used as a powder, which is not hygroscopic, by the use of various salts, which are in themselves without action on the acid. Boric anhydride, calcined borax, magnesia and burnt alum answer this purpose. The powder and the crystalline phenol, perfectly dry, are mixed and powdered.

**DELICATE REACTION FOR HYDROGEN PEROXIDE.**—E. S. Barralet refers to the fact that solutions of hydrogen peroxide quickly oxidise the pale blue precipitate obtained by adding a solution of potassium ferrocyanide to a solution of a ferrous salt to "Prussian blue," and points out that, owing to the high colorific value of this pigment, the reaction may be used as a delicate test for the presence of hydrogen peroxide—in fact, for the detection of that compound in extremely minute quantities, since the oxidising agents, such as potassium bichromate, potassium permanganate, and calcium hypochlorite, cease to react.

**META-CRESOL CINNAMIC ESTER.**—This body, which is used as a remedy for tuberculosis, may be prepared as follows: Meta-cresol 25, and cinnamic acid, 35, are dissolved in from three to five times their volume of toluol; phosphorus oxychloride, 20 to 25, is then added, and the mixture heated under a reflux condenser to 100 degrees or 120 degrees C., until no more hydrochloric acid is evolved. When cold, a resinoid red body separates out, from which the liquid is decanted. The solvent is driven off, leaving a slightly colored oil, which solidifies to crystals. These are purified by re-crystallization from alcohol, when they melt at about 65 degrees C. They are insoluble in water, but dissolve in most organic solvents.—*Apoth. Ver.*

**ANISON, THE NEW ANESTHETIC.**—This is a colorless, aqueous solution of trichlor-pseudobutyl-alcohol or acetone-chloroform, and corresponds to a 2 to 2.5 solution of cocaine, but has none of the latter's local irritation and is non-toxic. As much as 17 grains have been used without after effects. The anesthetic effect is also immediate, with no interval, as with cocaine. In suturing, a small amount of anison injected at the points where the stitches are to be taken will prevent pain. Even inflammatory phlegmonous processes can be rendered perfectly insensible if sufficient anison is used to keep them flooded all the time. The anesthesia was not perfect in all cases, but this can be said of all other anesthetics. L. Sternberge, of Berlin, concludes his report of a dozen tests of anison in the *Klin. Therap. Woch.*, of September 25th, by recommending it as a useful and safe anesthetic.—*Journ. Amer. Med. Assoc.*

**SYRUP OF CALCIUM LACTOPHOSPHATE WITH IRON AND MANGANESE.**—This may be prepared, according to a writer in the *Pharmaceutische Centralhalle*, by dissolving in 74 parts of water 20 parts of calcium lactophosphate, 5 parts of iron lactate and 1 part of manganese lactate, filtering and combining with 900 parts of syrup. Flavor with two drops of lemon oil.

**IODOFORMOGENE.**—For this combination of iodoform and albumin, the following properties are claimed. It forms a very fine dry powder, which does not aggregate and form hard lumps. Being much less dense than iodoform it is more convenient to use. It possesses only a very slight odor, and exercises a remarkable power in promoting the healthy