

hot-water bath, and retain it there until benzoination is complete. This takes place much more rapidly than with the official process (usually thirty minutes is ample), because a far greater surface of benzoin is exposed on the gravel to the solvent action of the hot fat. Further, an advantage is gained in not having to keep the lard hot so long as to endanger its keeping qualities.

OINTMENTS WITH EXTRACTS.

Ointments containing extracts such as of opium, belladonna, aconite, stramonium, etc., are best prepared as follows: Heat the extract in a porcelain evaporating dish on a water-bath with a mixture of equal parts of diluted alcohol and glycerin, until the extract has been dissolved and the alcohol and water practically all evaporated. Then incorporate the glycerinic mixture with the fat. Ointments so made keep far better than when made by triturating aqueous or hydro-alcoholic solutions of an extract with the fat. The water present always disposes an ointment to become rancid more quickly.

VERATRINE OINTMENT.

A smooth veratrine ointment can be expeditiously made by rubbing the veratrine with a little alcohol, in which it dissolves, then quickly adding a little castor oil, and continuing the trituration until the alcohol is practically evaporated and then adding the ointment base. By this means is avoided the sneezing which is most likely to follow the attempt to make the ointment by other processes.

OINTMENTS WITH HEAVY MINERALS.

In preparing such ointments as those of ammoniated mercury, lead carbonate, lead iodide, etc., it will be found that a very little expressed oil of almonds will very materially assist in securing perfectly smooth ointments if the powders are first triturated with it.

OINTMENT OF MERCURIC OXID.

Ointments of both yellow and red mercury oxids should be prepared by first triturating the oxids with a little glycerin, to which just enough alcohol has been added to overcome the viscosity—say, about one-tenth. The glycerin enables the powders to be more finely triturated than can be accomplished by water or alcohol alone, or by the ointment base, and secures more permanence for a product which is, at best, very prone to spoil quickly. The very

little alcohol is usually entirely dissipated during the trituration.

COLD CREAM.

To obtain a fine, smooth cold cream the manipulation is almost of more importance than the formula followed. The following process has always yielded an excellent product:

Spermaceti	2 tr. oz.
White wax	2 tr. oz.
Oil sweet almond	12 fl. oz.
Water	4 fl. oz.
Borax	1 dr.
Oil rose	20 gtt.

Melt the spermaceti and the wax in the oil on a steam-bath, taking care not to expose the mixture to heat any longer than is just enough to effect liquefaction of the solids. Pour this solution into a cold, capacious mortar, and immediately add the water, previously warmed, and in which the borax has been dissolved, pouring it in a steady stream into the centre of the oily solution, and without stirring. When all has been added, the whole is thoroughly mixed with the pestle, care being taken to frequently scrape the sides of the mortar and incorporate the firmer with the more fluid portion. When the ointment has become fairly solid, which occurs in but a very short time, scrape the sides of the mortar well, and get all the ointment together, then cover the mortar—a piece of paper, towel, etc., will answer—and set aside for a few hours. When perfectly cold and the ointment has "set," add the oil of rose, and triturate until a perfectly smooth preparation results.

The writer prefers to use water and oil of rose rather than rose water, because the latter, although of finer flavor if the distilled product is used, is easily spoiled by heat, and its addition to the hot fat is not only likely to spoil it, but the odorous portion is largely driven off by the heat.

In very hot weather the quantity of wax and spermaceti should be somewhat increased, say about one-eighth, and in very cold weather diminished.

Korestol is an antigonorrheic solution containing zinc salts of formamid-sulfonic acid and iodophenol-sulfonic acid, besides other nondescript organic iodine compounds.

Ibit is bismuth oxyiodotannate, the name being formed of the initials of iodine, bismuth and tannin. It is akin to airol, the oxyiodogallate of bismuth.

A Dangerous Mixture.

A correspondant of the *Bulletin de Pharmacie* says: Not long ago an apothecary received from a physician a prescription calling for the following:

Liquid paraffine	6 gm.
Soap, thoroughly dry	14 gm.
Sodium peroxide	10 gm.

Mix and make a paste.

When the paste was finished it turned out to be too hard to suit the physician, who was present, and who asked the apothecary to make it softer. Hereupon 5 gm. of almond oil were added, and the capsule set aside to allow the heat engendered by the addition to subside. The heat, however, increased, and in the course of some 10 minutes, all at once, there was a crash, a deafening report, a great flash of light, accompanied by a crackling and spluttering (*Prasseln*) and a small conflagration was in progress. The capsule, fortunately a small one, was smashed into little scraps, and its cover melted down, while the contents went in every direction, carrying fire and flame with it. Further experiments in this direction were postponed.—*National Drug- & 'st.*

Ox Blood as a Remedy.

Blech (*Pharm. Zeit.*) recommends of blood as a useful therapeutic agent. The blood is caught direct in an antiseptic vessel and beaten for a few minutes with a sterilized glass rod to prevent coagulation. It is then bottled into sterilized flasks. Certain commercial preparations consist of ox blood prepared in this way, to which a little whiskey and dried white of egg have been added. For internal use a little salt and pepper improve the taste, and boracic acid (1:1,000) tends towards its preservation. This preparation is an excellent tonic and blood-enricher; the dose is 15.30 grammes, four to six times per diem, before meals. For obstinate ulcers the external application of a tampon of gauze, saturated with the preparation, is productive of highly beneficial results.—*Medical Times.*

Born, Not Made.

"What is a pharmacist?" asked Pat.

The answer was "A mixer."

"If that's the case" Pat then replied,

"I'll tell ye mighty quick, sir,

I am a pharmacist by birth,

For, shure, ain't I a mick, sir?"

—*Spatula.*