

Some American "Novelties."

A New York firm has been good enough to favor the American public with an altogether peculiar kind of "Novelties" of which we deem it necessary, in the interest of the good repute of our trade, to say a few words.

"*Ambrettaria*, a powerful synthetic product for perfumery." Although the "discoverers" claim this to be "a product of our chemical laboratory," "*Ambrettaria*" is nevertheless no definite scientific body at all, but a simple mechanical mixture of 5 parts of musk-seed oil (ambrette oil), 95 parts of antifebrin (acetanilid), and traces of artificial musk. These ingredients were recognized and isolated by us with absolute certainty. We determined the melting point and other characteristic features of the antifebrin.

"*Oil Catalpa*, a powerful synthetic product for perfumery." The manufacturer of this product most obligingly condescends to offer perfumers, under this new name, a terpineol, to which a few drops of ylang-ylang oil have been added, at the "cheap" rate of \$10 per pound. It is to be hoped that no perfumer will fall into the trap.

"*Oil Narcissus*, a powerful synthetic product for perfumery." The person who imagines this product to provide the scent of narcissus will be sadly deceived. This stuff is nothing more or less than the parts of light specific gravity which are obtained as a by-product in the manufacture of terpineol. As this material is of no value whatever in perfumery, we use it in our works for cleaning parts of machinery. The price asked for this product is the trifling one of \$7.50 per pound.

"*Oil Ylang-Ylang, artificial.*" This product does not by any means solve the scientific problem of the synthesis of ylang-ylang in a practical manner, which would be a matter of great importance. On the contrary, we have here to deal with a bald and primitive mixture of camanga oil and Peruvian-balsam oil (cinnamein).

We are quite certain that no one could be found with sufficient assurance to try to place such products upon the European market. Any attempt to do so would only provoke mirth. And the house that dares to place such compounds before the American perfumers surely under-estimates grossly the intelligence of its would-be customers.—From Schimmel & Co's Semi-Annual Report.

A Popular New Remedy.

There are few of the newer remedies that have met with more approval from the profession than has Pichi (*Fabiana imbricata*). It has proved one of the most valuable of remedies in general vesical and genito-urinary troubles.

Pichi is diuretic; favors the expulsion of calculi and gravel, and relieves the irritation caused thereby; modifies favorably purulent discharges; and acts as a

general stimulant of the excretory functions.

We make of this preparation the fluid extract, the solid extract, the powdered extract, and filled soluble elastic capsules.

The habitat of this drug is South America.

It is diuretic, tonic, terebinthinate. It calms irritability, and quickly modifies the urinary secretions in gravel and uric diathesis.

Among formulae which have been prescribed in connection with fluid extract of Pichi with success are the following:

R Fl. ext. pichi ʒij.
Liquor potass ʒiv.
Tr. nuc. vom ʒij.
Elix. calisaya q. s. ad ʒiv.

M. Sig.: Teaspoonful in hot water every four or five hours.

R Fl. ext. pichi ʒijss.
Glycerini ʒiv.
Elix. calisaya ʒij.

M. Sig.: Teaspoonful in water every three hours till relieved, then three or four times a day.

R Fl. ext. pichi ʒij.
Liquor potass ʒiv.
Glycerini ʒiv.
Elixir calisaya q. s. ad ʒiv.

M. Sig.: Tablespoonful in hot water every six hours.

R Fl. ext. pichi ʒij.
Potass. nitrate ʒij.
Simple elixir ʒij.

M. Sig.: Teaspoonful once in two hours.

R Fl. ext. pichi ʒij.
Fl. ext. hyoscyamus ʒij.
Syrup ʒij.

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful before each meal and at bedtime.

R Fl. ext. pichi ʒij.
Fl. ext. hyoscyamus ʒij.
Syrup ʒij.

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful three times a day and at bedtime.

Therapeutic reports of its application, full information concerning our line of Pichi preparations, will be furnished on request to Parke, Davis & Co., who were the first to introduce the virtues of Pichi to the American profession.

Caffeine Salts.

The statement has frequently been made that caffeine does not form definite salts with organic acids, and notwithstanding evidence to the contrary furnished by Biedermann, Liepen, and Snow, it has recently been stated by Taurat that caffeine will crystallise from concentrated acetic or valeric acid without entering into combination (*Journ. de Pharm. et de Chim.*) E. Schmidt points out in regard to this statement that it indicates disregard of the published information as to the conditions which have been shown by Biedermann to be essential for the production of definite salts. Though caffeine will crystallise out from a hot solution containing 47 per cent. acetic acid, a definite salt ($C_8H_{10}N_4O_2 \cdot (C_2H_3O_2)_2$) may be obtained when caffeine is warmed with glacial acetic acid and the solution set to crystal-

lise over caustic lime. Having had occasion to refer to some of the salts of caffeine in connection with the revision of the German Pharmacopœia, Schmidt has published the observations made by him, together with R. Gaze, on the subject. In regard to what has been stated by Biedermann concerning the hydrochloride and hydrobromide, as well as the double gold and platinum salts, nothing needs to be added, especially since Snow's experiments have confirmed the statements respecting the first two salts (*Pharm. Journ.*). The case is somewhat different with the nitrate and sulphate. The former salt does not contain water of crystallisation. The sulphate formed by dissolving caffeine in ten parts of hot alcohol, and adding two parts of concentrated sulphuric acid crystallises out on cooling the solution, and has the formula $C_8H_{10}N_4O_2 \cdot H_2SO_4$. When this anhydrous acid salt is exposed to the air it takes up one molecule of water, and sometimes a sulphate of this composition crystallises out from the solution above mentioned. A neutral sulphate does not appear to be obtainable. The acetate and propionate were readily obtained and found to be anhydrous salts containing two molecules of acid. The formiate, butyrate, and valerianate are more difficult to prepare; they contain only one molecule of acid and are very readily decomposed even by drying. For the preparation of caffeine citrate equal parts of caffeine and citric acid are to be dissolved in a quantity of water equal to their joint weight, the mixture heated, and when evaporated to a syrupy consistency placed over sulphuric acid. At first a small quantity of caffeine crystallises out, but the greater part is deposited in a form resembling cauliflower, and has the composition $C_8H_{10}N_4O_2 \cdot C_6H_8O_7$. By drying at 100° the salt does not lose weight. It is perfectly soluble in a mixture of equal parts chloroform and alcohol, and a cold saturated solution in absolute alcohol does not immediately redden litmus, while the alcoholic solution of a mere mixture of caffeine and citric acid in equal parts shows an acid reaction at once. Further, a mixture of caffeine and citric acid, though soluble in chloroform and alcohol, was found to lose 8 per cent. by drying at 100° C., while the citrate above described remained constant in weight at that temperature (*Arch. d. Pharm.*, 231,1).—*Phar. Journal.*

A GLASS WHICH IS IMPERMEABLE TO HEAT—*Dingler's Polytechnischer Journal* states that a glass is now manufactured which, while transmitting light perfectly, allows but a small percentage of heat to pass through. The formula for the glass is: Sand, 70 parts; kaolin, 25 parts; sodium hydrate, 34 parts. After melting, the mixture is found by analysis to contain SiO_2 , 746 parts; Al_2O_3 , 84 parts; Fe_2O_3 , traces; Na_2O , 154 parts, and CaO , 9 parts in 1000. A shade 7 mm. thick almost entirely shut off the heat from a powerful gas flame.