

Translations.

EXPLOSIVE MIXTURES.

M. Kæuffer has published, in the *Annales de la Société Medico-Chirurgicale de Liège*, an interesting study of pharmaceutic preparations, which in certain cases, often not well marked, may give rise to explosions. Amongst these very numerous substances we will cite only the most important. The author, for example, while preparing a pomade composed of chloride of lime, flowers of sulphur and other substances, saw small detonations produced, and the entire mass entered into deflagration. Another time, essence of turpentine having been poured into a bottle in which remained some sulphuric acid, the vase burst. These explosions may be produced in many other cases. A German journal reports that in America, one of the most dangerous substances, nitro-glycerine, is found in all the homœopathic pharmacies. The hypophosphites may also be the cause of accidents. In one case, the mixture of hypophosphite of lime, chlorate of potash and acetate of iron produced a violent detonation, which burned the preparator and put his life in danger. The trituration of the hypophosphite alone may be dangerous when the substance is very pure. The solutions of oxydizing bodies in glycerine demand the greatest prudence. Thus, chromic acid in glycerine has been able to give rise to a violent detonation. In this case the solution should be made drop by drop in order to avoid accidents.

The solution of permanganate of potash in glycerine presents an analogous danger. Pills of oxyde of silver have equally been able to determine on the one who carried them a formidable explosion. The iodide of nitrogen, which may be formed in certain circumstances, is also detonating. Now, in America there are frequently seen prescriptions ordering a mixture of tincture of iodine with ammonia, which necessarily form iodide of nitrogen: if the explosion is rarely produced, it is because the trituration is generally made in the presence of water, which prevents this result. In any case, this mixture should only be made in very small quantities. A pharmacien ought then to refuse to fill a prescription for which tincture of iodine is

to be mixed with an ammoniacal liniment; he ought also to refuse to make every mixture of chlorate of potash mixed with sulphur and analogous substances. Thus chlorate of potash mixed with tannin is dangerous, and these bodies ought only to be delivered separately, in the case where the physician prescribes them in substance and not under the form of gargle. A tooth powder pointed out by Price, composed of chlorate of potash and cachou, and used with a dry brush, would be capable of producing a detonation in the very mouth of the patient. Price also noted danger from concentrated solutions of permanganate of potash in alcohol and water, which may be filled but never delivered in uncorked bottles; if not, explosion follows infallibly.

Chlorate of potash with glycerine also constitutes a dangerous mixture. Once a gargle prescribed by one of the most renowned physicians of New York, containing equal parts of chlorate of potash, perchloride of iron and glycerine exploded with great violence, not in the pharmacy, but in the saddle bags of the bearer.

Another time, a similar mixture exploded only some time after its preparation, under the influence of the rays of the sun. This time the explosion caused the burning of the house. Lately there has been noticed an explosion of a powder containing chlorate of potash and hydrochlorate of morphine.—*Union Méd. du Nord Est.*

ECZEMA OF THE SCALP AND NOSE.

Neumann of Vienna, in moist eczema of the hair and scalp, bathes the diseased parts twice a day with the following solution:

Venetian borax	
Crystalized alum	5 parts.
Glycerine	100 "

For this lotion may be substituted a pomade thus formulated:

Venetian Borax	5 grammes	ʒi.
Dissolve in a sufficient quantity of glycerine.		
Mutton suet		
White wax—āā	25 grammes	ʒij.
Olive oil		ʒs.

In eczema of the nose he introduces into the nasal orifice suppositories composed with

Cacao butter—80 centigrammes	12 grs.
Pure tannin—15 "	ʒ¼ "

The tannin may be replaced by 0.15 centigrammes (2¼ grains) of oxide of zinc.—*Le Practicien.*