

OXIDE OF ZINC OINTMENT.

J. Kalish, in the *Am. Journal of Pharmacy*, suggests the following method of manipulation for preparing a smooth ointment of oxide of zinc: Rub the oxide in a wedgewood or unglazed porcelain mortar with considerable pressure, until as finely divided as possible; now add, gradually, with constant trituration and pressure sufficient sweet oil of almonds to form a smooth paste; then add a little lard, mix thoroughly, and finally, add the remainder of the lard. The same process will answer for all ointments containing insoluble substances.

SUCCESSFUL EMPLOYMENT OF PROPYLAMIN IN ACUTE ARTICULAR RHEUMATISM.

M. Dujardin-Baumetz, in a recent communication to the Société Médical des Hôpitaux of Paris, related the results of his trials of propylamin in acute and subacute articular rheumatism. They had been very successful; the pain had first diminished, then the movements became easier, and the swellings in the joints disappeared rapidly. The duration of the attack seemed generally to be greatly shortened, and, on an average, the disease was stopped in about eight days. Dr. Dujardin-Baumetz generally uses the following formula: Propylamin, ten to thirty grains; tilleul water (infusion of linden-tree leaves), three ounces; syrup of morphia, five drachms; essence of aniseed, sufficient quantity.

USE OF PERCHLORIDE OF IRON IN VARIOLA.

During the recent epidemic of variola at Gleiswitz, Dr. Silbergleit derived the very best effects from the employment of a solution of perchloride of iron. Twenty to thirty drops of the solution in an ounce of glycerine, given several times successively, at an hour's interval, produced considerable amendment in variolic angina; the pustules were speedily transformed into dry crusts, and the swelling and hyperæmia of the mucous membrane soon diminished. The medicament acted both as an astringent through the medium of the blood, and locally through the glycerine.—*All. Wiener Med. Zeitung*.

LARGE DOSES OF BELLADONNA IN WHOOPING-COUGH.

A paper in the *Practitioner* for March, by Dr. Charles Kelly, gives particulars of a rather bold experiment in the treatment of whooping-cough by large doses of belladonna. In the first case, a child, aged five years, took more than thirteen drachms of the tincture in four days and a half, thus: "July 30th: At 6 a.m., and again at 10 a.m., he had thirty minims of tincture of belladonna. At 11.30 a.m. the tongue was rather dry and glazed at the centre, but the pupils were natural, and there was no flush or feverishness; fifteen minims of the tincture were then given every four hours. The next day the same quantity was given every two hours, but without producing any apparent effect." On Aug. 2nd, he was rather restless during the afternoon; at 3 p.m. ten minims were given every hour. On Aug. 3d, the face was slightly flushed; the cough was so much relieved that at 8 p.m. the

medicine was discontinued. After taking the tincture for four days and a half the whoop nearly ceased. He coughed slightly after this date, but whooped only four times the following week, and was then quite cured. The second child, much thinned by previous illness, was two years and eight months old; and had fifteen drachms of the tincture of belladonna in four days, with no more result than a blush over the skin for a short time and dilated pupils. The whoops diminished a little in frequency and considerably in severity. After a few days' interval sixteen drachms were again given in four days, and a rapid recovery took place. The third case, a boy six and a half years old, was more affected than the others. Rather more than eleven drachms were given in four days, and, after a short interval, fifteen drachms were given in five days. The whoops were rather more frequent while taking the medicine than after its discontinuance.

The chief interest of this somewhat startling experiment is in the doses of belladonna borne without serious toxicological results. We are disposed to question the genuineness or quality of the tincture. The remedy was tried in a great number of cases, with benefit in some, but with quite negative results in other cases. We congratulate Dr. Kelly on the merely negative results. We have to thank him for a remarkable experiment in therapeutics, though there is little in its results to encourage an imitation of the practice. Children were known to be tolerant of belladonna, but Dr. Kelly's cases give an illustration of the fact that will surprise the profession.—*Lancet*.

ORCHITIS TREATED WITH ABSOLUTE REST.—Dr. Brambilla, of Lodi, Italy, publishes, in the *Lombard Medical Gazette*, an account of twenty-two cases of orchitis treated by this means; twelve of these were gonorrhœal, six traumatic, and four idiopathic. In all the cure was complete. Medium time of treatment was five days, "although on admission the affection had lasted from two to six days, and the testis had acquired from two to five times its normal size. By absolute rest is meant that the patient should lie continuously on his back, with a small cushion between the thighs, in order to support the testis, and that he must never get off the bed even for the purpose of attention to his natural wants." The Doctor thinks orchitis can be more rapidly and more effectually cured in this way than by any other ordinary means.—*Chicago Medical Journal*.

COLOTOMY FOR INTESTINAL OBSTRUCTION.—(*Medical Times and Gazette*).—Mr. Steele commences by observing that many cases of intestinal obstruction terminate fatally without surgical interference, which, were timely operative measures adopted, would very probably end in recovery. He relates the case of a man, aged fifty-two, who, usually enjoying good health, had lately suffered from diarrhœa. On June 2d he was unable to relieve his bowels; he took castor oil, but without effect. Mr. Steele saw him early next day, and found tympanites, colicky pains, and faecal accumulation in the rectum,