

obtained specimens of both *Acer spicatum* and *Viburnum opulus* from Arnold Arboretum, Missouri Botanic Garden, Baltimore Nursery, Kew Botanic Garden, and the German Botanic Garden. Sections and drawings of these were made and of commercial Cramp Bark. See plates 4 and 5. These drawings show clearly that commercial Cramp Bark is taken from *Acer spicatum*, for both show the bands of bast fibres and the absence of calcium oxalate.

The accompanying illustrations are representative of all the drawings made and show the desired points.

The pharmacopœia should replace the present description by the following:—
“In transversely curved pieces or quills, of variable length, and one mm. or less thick; outer surface gray, longitudinally furrowed, small oval lenticels; inner surface brownish yellow, very smooth; fracture short and clean; transverse sections show an abundance of calcium oxalate crystals in rosettes, no bast fibres; taste at first bitter and then astringent.”

Viburnum Prunifolium.—Two characteristics of this drug should be added which will aid considerably in its identification. These are the sour odor and the peculiar, short, smooth striæ on the inner surface of the bark.

Laboratories of Eli Lilly & Company, June, 1914.

REVIEW OF CURRENT PHARMACEUTICAL LITERATURE.*

PROF. JULIUS W. STURMER.

PHARMACEUTICAL ERA. (January.)

Stable Bichloride Solution.—Mercuric Chloride in aqueous solution containing also Sod. Silicate Sol. does not precipitate with ammonia. As the resulting ammoniacal sol. does not attack steel instruments, it may be found serviceable by the surgeon.

NOTE.—The author does not give bactericidal power of this solution as compared with ordinary Bichloride Sol. (J. W. S.)

Saccharin (and in particular its sodium salt) is converted into a bitter compound by action of fruit acids. The change takes place slowly at ordinary temperatures, more rapidly on application of heat.

CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS. (Jan. 20.)

Temperature of slaking lime.—1. At temperatures of about 270-300° wood is partially carbonized, and in the presence of oxygen, i.e., air, it ignites. A sample of lime from marble was found to attain a temperature of 390° during slaking, and the experiment proved that the slaking lime could ignite wood.

PHARMACEUTICAL JOURNAL. (Jan. 2.)

Ammoniated Mercury, constitution of.—The reaction with Hydrofluoric acid:— $2\text{NH}_3 + \text{Hg Cl} + 4\text{HF} = \text{Hg Cl}_2 + \text{Hg Fl}_2 + 2\text{NH}_4\text{Fl}$ points to the formula Hg Cl NH_2 . That is, Mercuric Chloride with one Chlorine atom replaced by NH_2 .

JOURNAL OF INDUSTRIAL AND ENG. CHEMISTRY. (February.)

Hard Wood Distillation Industry in America.—Interesting nine-page article by Edward H. French and James R. Withrow.

* Read before Philadelphia Branch, February meeting.

MERCCK'S REPORT. (January.)

Viscose Sponges:—The viscose which forms a dough with Sod. Hydroxide is kneaded with hemp fibre, and Sod. Sulphate Crystals are imbedded; then oval cakes are formed and immersed in Dilute Sulphuric Acid, which hardens the viscose. Finally, the Sod. Sulphate Crystals are dissolved by means of water, thus leaving cavities, which give to the mass a sponge-like appearance.

BRITISH PHARMACEUTICAL JOURNAL. (Jan. 16.)

Magnesia Carbonate, absorptive power of:—The experiment reported consisted in placing pieces of camphor wrapped in three layers of paper upon a cube of Mag. Carbonate also wrapped in paper. After two months the Mag. Carbonate had only a feeble odor of camphor, but on triturating the Carbonate with water a stronger odor developed, and on dissolving the Mag. Carbonate by the addition of citric acid, the odor developed was equal in strength to that of Spirit of Camphor. Accordingly, it is reasoned that Mag. Carbonate, like Charcoal, must be kept in air-tight containers lest it become contaminated with volatile drugs.

AMERICAN DRUGGIST. (January.)

Peroxide Creams:—The article points out that animal and vegetable fats cause decomposition of peroxides, and that these fats are therefore inadmissible in peroxide cold creams. Petrolatum, starch paste, tragacanth paste, and also glycerin are recommended by the author as being unobjectionable, and suitable bases for such creams.

Liquid Petrolatum:—(February. Reprinted from the Report of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the A. M. A.) The article deals with the limpid oils used for atomizer sprays, and with the more viscid oils, obtained principally from Russian sources and used in intestinal stasis.

DRUGGIST'S CIRCULAR. (February.)

Spurious drugs:—An article well worth reading by John Uri Lloyd.

THE WOMEN'S SECTION AND WOMEN PHARMACISTS.

ZADA M. COOPER.

The first clause of the second article of the Constitution of the Women's Section reads like this: "The object of this Section shall be to emphasize the right and capability of women to engage in pharmaceutical pursuits as a means of livelihood." Other objects follow, all of them laudable, but this one statement is the basis for what I want to say. Under the circumstances, I suppose I cannot be altogether altruistic, but one very practical way suggests itself to me, one that I believe would benefit not only women pharmacists, but be of great value to women generally. I am also firm in the opinion that it would mean increased business to pharmacists, a fact that should enlist the interest of the women of this section who are not themselves pharmacists. But for its length, a better title for this paper would be, "How to convince druggists, now employing only men, of the need of women pharmacists, also."

To come at once to the point, the Women's Section might formulate resolutions expressing women's preference for drug stores where they can do business with women pharmacists; stating also their belief in the advantage to business; and requesting pharmacists to consider seriously the employment of women. If the resolutions should be approved by the Association they would eventually reach all