

has been lost or even bare spots. To remedy this appearance, melt off all the salol and return to the conditions outlined.

As to the number of pills that can be coated in a vessel of given size from twenty to thirty can be conveniently done in the one described. Even fifty can be done in this vessel, but experience will be needed; for fifty or more pills a larger dish should be provided, or the lot divided for treatment.

To indicate the wide scope of possibilities in salol-coating, pills which had been massed with petrolatum have been coated.¹ Gelatin capsules are also ordered to be salol-coated. This can be done by the same method. Even hard capsules containing liquids such as creosote can be coated by first placing the capsule inside of a slightly larger one.¹ Soft elastic capsules may also be enveloped in salol as the sample shows.

A MEDLEY.*

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Few men have so many problems and difficulties presented to them in their daily work as does the pharmacist. Accidents happen, preparations go wrong, materials are spoiled or rendered unfit for further use, by what, to the casual observer would seem the sheer perversity of the things themselves. To him who yields without struggle to such conditions, life is but "an empty dream." To him who, by the application of some almost insignificant bit of knowledge, conquers them, there comes the wild joy of wresting from an apparent defeat, an assured victory.

An illustration is furnished by a happening of a few months ago. A barrel of potassium bicarbonate, of German manufacture, had been on hand for some time. It was lined with parchmentized paper. Through some defect in the manufacture of the paper or the action of the salt upon it, the paper began to disintegrate. The more one tried to separate the salt and the paper the more they mixed. A boy was put to work spreading it on a table and picking out the bits of paper. It looked all right, but the first pound sent out was returned in a hurry. The paper was still there.

With the facilities at hand, recrystallization was out of the question, but nearly 200 pounds of material could not be wasted, especially, in the face of a rising market. Then came the magic inspiration of the electric fan. A small fan was set awhirl at one end of a long, narrow table. The table was covered with clean, heavy paper, and, along the edges was placed a row of wooden boxes to prevent the potassium bicarbonate from rolling to the floor. The end was left open.

Through the swift current of air, passing along this narrow channel, the material was allowed to drop, a handful at a time. Away went the paper—big bits and little bits—in a merry whirl, while the heavy chemical—bright and clean—dropped on the table—freed from its troublesome companion. Scarcely a pound of material was lost.

¹ Samples were shown.

*Read at the meeting of the New Jersey Pharmaceutical Association, June, 1915.

CLEANING CAPSULES.

How do you clean capsules after you have filled them with powdered material? Do you wipe them on the towel at the prescription counter? Whether that towel is clean or otherwise? Well, don't confess what you do—just try this. Take a piece of absorbent gauze of such size that it can be folded into a square of eight or ten inches, having four thicknesses of material. Place the capsules to be cleaned in the center of this. Gather up the corners and edges of the gauze into one hand, in such a manner that the capsules are suspended in a loose bag. Now rub this bag across the palm of the other hand a few times, pressing firmly. Each capsule is rubbed between the layers of gauze, and every particle of powder is removed, leaving it bright and clean.

GRANULATING.

You are in a hurry for some camphorated oil. You crush the camphor into coarse lumps, and throw it into the oil, put the mixture on a water-bath for an hour or so, and return to find lumps of camphor still in evidence. Then, if you are of that temperament, there follow a few splutters, dashes, blanks and exclamation points, but the camphorated oil is still unfinished. Before you try it again, go to your hardware dealer and spend from 75 cents to \$1.25 for an almond grater. Put your camphor into this machine, a few lumps at a time, turn the handle, and have the camphor in an almost uniformly fine granule. Add this to your oil. Put it on the water-bath and have your preparation—less the dashes, etc., in fifteen minutes.

Speaking of the almond grater, you will be surprised at the number of uses you will find for it. You can granulate castile soap for making soap liniment. You can granulate opium, if you make preparations of that drug. And you can granulate almonds and make your almond meal from real almonds.

SAMPLING NIPPLES.

Take a smooth piece of wood of convenient length—about one-half inch thick and six inches or more wide. Sand paper this perfectly smooth and mark off points one and one-half inches apart each way to the same number as you have styles of nipples. Attach three-fourths inch, or any convenient size, wooden button moulds, which you can obtain at any store dealing in dress making goods, at each point, by means of small brass screws, and over each peg, thus formed, a nipple is stretched. For larger nipples, like Hygeia, use the top of turned wood boxes of convenient size, with a hole drilled through the middle. For smaller sizes like the Maw style, use large round-headed brass screws. The nipples can be arranged on the stock selves in the same order as on the display board described. If so desired, a small label can be put on the board in front of each nipple, giving the name of that particular style, or its number, so that one can be picked from the proper box without disarranging the rest of the stock. The nipples should not be sold directly from the display board, but should be changed at frequent intervals so as to keep them in good condition.