

it will also penetrate the skin and body tissues and exert its antiseptic action there in a similar manner. Of course the absorption of different chemical substances through the skin will vary considerably, but antiseptic dyes are well known for their ability to penetrate the skin and body tissues. Therefore, the penetration of antiseptic dyes through serum-agar to give a clear zone around the cup is a safe index of the antiseptic action that can be expected of these dyes when used in practice.

SUMMARY.

A method for testing antiseptic dye solutions is described. This method is the one recommended by Himebaugh of the Pease Laboratories, New York City, in 1927, for determining the penetrating power and antiseptic action of antiseptic solutions in general. The method is eminently suited for testing the antiseptic action of dye substances, and is the only applicable test which has so far come to the writer's attention. It is recommended that this method be used as a standard procedure for testing antiseptic dye substances.

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FRENCH TECHNICAL SCHOOL OF APPRENTICESHIP FOR THE DRUG, PERFUMERY AND RAW PRODUCTS TRADE.

The lectures on crude organized by the Wholesale Druggists' Association, of Paris, for the benefit of their employees are to be transformed to a "Technical School of Apprenticeship for the Drug, Perfumery and Raw Products Trade." This action has been taken in view of the new apprenticeship tax, of which the proceeds are to be devoted to technical education. The Association has demanded that their trade be placed on the same footing (as regards the tax) as the perfumers, and it has been arranged that 70 per cent reduction shall be accorded for professional education and formation of skilled and half-skilled labor, 20 per cent for formation of staffs and laboratories and 10 per cent for household instruction. The Minister of Public Instruction allocates an annual sum of 2500 fr. to the school.—Through *Chemist and Druggist*, of January 26th.

CHEMICAL NATURE OF PEPSIN.

Pepsin is difficult to investigate chemically because its aqueous solutions are rapidly inactivated by dilution and agitation, and partially also by aeration. The addition of alcohol or acetone in presence of mineral acids converts pepsin into an insoluble compound from which the enzyme cannot be regenerated. In presence of picric acid or its salts, pepsin becomes more stable. It can be precipitated quantitatively from concentrated solutions, but it is uncertain whether the precipitate is a true compound or merely an adsorption combination. The fact that some precipitates have greater stability and that some reagents render pepsin totally inactive is held to be evidence that true compounds are formed. The solubility of the sodium and barium compounds of pepsin may indicate that salts are formed with the acid groups in the pepsin molecule—the digestive milk coagulating power. There is also evidence that pepsin consists of an inactive fraction and a kinase.—Through *Chem. Abstr.*