EDITORIAL NOTES

NEW AND NONOFFICIAL REMEDIES.

THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL ARTICLES HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED AS CONFORMING TO THE RULES OF THE COUNCIL ON PHARMACY AND CHEMISTRY OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION FOR ADMISSION TO NEW AND NONOFFICIAL REMEDIES. A COPY OF THE RULES ON WHICH THE COUNCIL BASES ITS ACTION WILL BE SENT ON APPLICATION.

W. A. PUCKNER, *Secretary.*

ANTIMENINGOCOCCUS SERUM (See New and Nonofficial Remedies, 1930, p. 350).

The National Drug Company, Philadelphia.

Antimeningococcic Serum.—Marketed in packages of two 15-cc. syringes with apparatus for intraspinal injection; in packages of one 50-cc. double-ended vial with apparatus for intraspinal injection.

MERCUROCHROME-220 SOLUBLE (See New and Nonofficial Remedies, 1930, p. 271).

The following dosage form has been accepted:

Mercurochrome Suppository Aces: Suppositories representing a 2 per cent solution of mercurochrome-220 soluble (H. W. & D.) in a slightly aromatized hydroglycero-gelatin base; each suppository weighs approximately 6.5 Gm. (100 grains) and contains 1/12 per cent of a mixture of equal parts of phenol, thymol, eucalyptol and menthol.

Prepared by Aces Laboratory, Inc.—*Jour. A. M. A.,* August 23, 1930.

WHITE'S COD LIVER OIL CONCENTRATE.—A cod liver oil concentrate in the form of tablets (wafers), each containing not less than 250 vitamin A units and not less than 100 vitamin D units.

Action and Uses.—White's cod liver oil concentrate possesses properties similar to those of cod liver oil so far as these depend on the fat-soluble vitamin content of the latter.

Dosage.—For adults, two to four tablets (wafers) three times daily; for children over 5 years, one tablet (wafer) three times daily after each meal; for infants, one tablet (wafer) daily, crushed and dissolved in the feeding.

Manufactured by the Health Products Corporation, Newark, N. J. (White Laboratories, Inc., Gloucester, Mass., distributor). No U. S. patent or trademark.

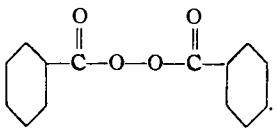
White's cod liver oil concentrate is obtained from cod liver oil by concentration of the unsaponifiable fraction of the latter. The vitamin A potency of White's cod liver oil concentrate is determined by a modification of the U. S. P. X method, differing from the latter in the use of a stock ration containing agar, irradiated yeast and "crisco," with starch replacing dextrin, and in the use of the appearance of xerophthalmia as the criterion for beginning the feeding of the ration; when assayed by this method the product is required to have not less than 250 vitamin A units per tablet. Comparative assays using the preceding method and that of the U. S. P. X have shown that the potency as determined by this method is fully the equivalent of that determined by the pharmacopœial method. The vitamin D potency is determined by comparison with a potent cod liver oil containing in each 0.75 Gm., 1 rat unit of vitamin D, the rat unit being defined as that amount of vitamin D which when uniformly distributed into a standard vitamin D deficient diet—ration 2965, *J. Biol. Chem.,* 64 (1925) 263—will produce in the metaphyses of the distal ends of the radii and ulnae of standard rachitic rats a narrow and continuous line of calcium deposits; when assayed by this method the product is required to have 100 vitamin D units.—*Jour. A. M. A.,* August 30, 1930.

BENZOYL PEROXIDE IN THE TREATMENT OF POISON IVY INTOXICATION.*

Poison ivy and poison oak are said to produce their intoxication by means of toxicodendrol, which becomes inert when oxidized. Various oxidizing agents, such as ferric chloride and potassium permanganate, have been used with some success in the treatment of this intoxication. These substances are applied in solution and their action, especially that of the latter, is of very short duration. It seemed to me that if one could find a dusting powder with oxidizing properties which could

* From an article by Paul D. Lamson, M.D., Nashville, Tenn., Department of Pharmacology, Vanderbilt University, School of Medicine—through *Jour. A. M. A.,* August 30, 1930.

be left in contact with the affected part, this would not only destroy any toxin on the surface of the skin but would absorb serum from breaking blisters and continue to act as a store of oxidizing material. Benzoyl peroxide seemed to have almost ideal properties for such a dusting powder. Its pharmacologic properties have been described by Loevenhart[1] as follows: It is a white crystalline, nondeliquescent substance with the formula



It is extremely nonirritating, watery solutions causing no irritation when dropped in the eye, and even the pure crystalline substance causing no irritation or disturbance of any kind when placed in the peritoneal cavity. It is also nontoxic when taken by mouth, being reduced to benzoic acid and excreted as hippuric acid. Saturated water solutions have been given intravenously without toxic effects. It has a definite antiseptic action and has been used as a dusting powder in wounds. Finally, as well as being an active oxidizing agent, it has a definite local anæsthetic action which is ideal in reducing the intense itching of poison ivy. This substance has therefore the properties of an ideal dusting powder for this particular condition and no contra-indications of which I am aware. It has been tried in thirty or more cases of ivy poisoning with the following results:

When benzoyl peroxide powder is dusted well over the lesion and kept in place by a light bandage, itching disappears in a short time, fifteen or twenty minutes, and may remain absent for as much as eight or ten hours after a single application. One or two physicians and nurses who have suffered great annoyance from itching in yearly attacks of poison ivy have stated that the effect was remarkable; that within half an hour after the application of the powder they became entirely unconscious of the lesions. Several of these cases which were seen early dried up and entirely disappeared within a day or so without spreading. In one boys' camp, where at the first part of the year boys were often confined to bed with very severe poison ivy lesions, it was found that after benzoyl peroxide was used no serious cases developed. The boys were so convinced of its beneficial action that they came in for treatment early, and after application of the powder no spreading of the lesions occurred.

On account of the varied lesions seen in poison ivy intoxication one would not expect this substance to be a certain cure in all cases. In many instances the lesion is a deep, small, hard blister, forming well under the skin which the powder could not be expected to reach. Other patients have a general anaphylactic action with intense edema, but many simple cases have only a localized patch of superficial blisters, which itch intensely and break on scratching, thus allowing the poison to spread all over the body. It is hoped that in such cases the application of this benzoyl peroxide powder may at least give relief from the annoyance of itching, reduce the spread of the intoxication, and possibly shorten its course.

CONCLUSIONS.

Benzoyl peroxide is a nonirritating, slightly antiseptic, definitely analgesic, nondeliquescent powder having active oxidizing properties. It is theoretically an almost ideal dusting powder for poison ivy intoxication, and has been shown in a small group of cases to reduce itching, to stop the spread of the intoxication, and possibly to shorten its duration.

[1] A. S. Loevenhart, *Therap. Monatsh.*, 19 (1905), 426–428.

NUX VOMICA AND STRYCHNINE IN PRESCRIPTION; MAXIMUM DOSE OF STRYCHNINE.

(*Chem. and Drug.* (1930), 112, 558.) The following prescription, with a large dose of powdered nux vomica, raises the question of the maximum dose of strychnine. Powdered nux vomica B. P., 2 grains; strychnine hydrochloride, $^1/_{16}$ grain; powdered cinnamon, 2 grains, make one powder; send six. These six doses are to be taken during forty-eight hours. This is evidently an intentional overdose, prescribed for atonic dyspepsia. The 2 grains of powdered nux vomica—$^1/_{40}$ grain of strychnine. The total single dose of strychnine is, therefore, $^1/_{40} + {}^1/_{16}$ grain, which, for a big adult, is not dangerous. The B. P. doses are all within safe limits. The B. P. doses for strychnine alkaloid and for its hydrochloride are identical, although the former has, obviously, a much lower molecular weight. On these data, the dose for the hydrochloride would be about $^1/_{12}$ grain. The prescriber's confirmation is desirable, in this instance, if

the patient is unknown, or not of robust type. The maximum single dose of the "French Codex" is $^1/_{12}$ grain, and approximately $^1/_4$ grain in twenty-four hours. This prescription gives a dose of $^{21}/_{80}$ grain in twenty-four hours.—*Quarterly Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology.*

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, SCHOOL OF PHARMACY RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP.

A research fellowship in pharmacy has been established in the School of Pharmacy, University of Maryland, by H. A. B. Dunning. The fellowship carried with it an annual stipend of $1000.00 and free tuition.

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY.

The American Chemical Society met in Cincinnati, September 8th–12th. Prof. J. U. Lloyd was the Honorary Chairman, the Chairman being A. S. Richardson.

Among the contributors to the division of Medicinal Chemistry were Walter H. Hartung and James C. Munch, on "Preparation and Pharmacological Action of 4 Isomeric Phenyl Propylamines;" Edward Kremers on "Sitosterol from Echinacea;" Mortimer Bye on "Sodium Ricinoleate as Therapeutic Agent;" E. Fullerton Cook on "The Relation of Medical Chemistry to the U. S. P.;" Edward Kremers, "The History of Alkaloids;" L. E. Warren, H. R. Watkins and G. L. Keenan on "Improvements in Process for the Education and Determination of Alkaloids."

UNITED MEDICINE MANUFACTURERS OF AMERICA, INC.

The Ninth Annual Meeting of the United Medicine Manufacturers of America, Incorporated, was held at Cleveland, September 15th to 17th.

We are in receipt of the following Bulletins of the University of Wisconsin:

1. "On the Structure of Carbon Molecules," by Wilhelm Stroh, Research Assistant 1929, Laboratory for Pharmaceutical Chemistry.

2. "An Anatomical Study of *Monarda Fistulosa*, L.," by Karl H. Rang. Part of a Thesis submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

3. "Tinctura Iodi Decolorata," by Karl Henry Rang. Thesis submitted for the degree of Master of Science, University of Wisconsin, 1925. This work was supported by a grant from the Research Committee of the A. PH. A., 1923–1924. Its publication was unavoidably delayed.

NOTE: It is necessary to hold "Book Notices and Reviews" for the October issue of the JOURNAL, when it is hoped to present quite a number of reviews.

PERSONAL AND NEWS ITEMS.

C. E. Nelson, coöperates with the public health department and his patrons and physicians by calling attention in his advertisment to precautionary measures by use of serums, etc.

A new pharmaceutical institute is under construction in Oslo and it is expected that the institute will be opened for instruction about the first of the year. The building fund totals about $350,000 and about $65,000 have been allowed for equipment. The plans and work are under the direction of Professor Farut.

Editor C. H. Farquharson, of the *Pharmaceutical Journal of New Zealand* has published a booklet of 24 pages on "An Historical Outline of New Zealand Pharmacy." *Editor* and *Secretary*, Walter D. Adams, of *The Texas Druggist*, has added further historical matter, in the September issue, to that dug out of various records during the past few years.

Ruth E. Miller, who received from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science a degree of Master of Science in Bacteriology in June 1930, has been named to continue the research under the auspices of the Chilean Government in the pharmacy of iodine.

During the past year, **Linewood Tice,** Philadelphia College graduate in pharmacy in 1929, has held this fellowship, assisted in the bacteriology phases of the research by Miss Miller. The former has been appointed to the chair of Professor of Theoretical and Operative Pharmacy in Baylor University, Dallas, Texas.

The **Hon. Thomas G. Murphy,** Neepawa, Man., who has recently been appointed Minister of the Interior in the newly formed Bennett Cabinet, Canada, is the first druggist in Canada to occupy a cabinet position in the Federal Government.

Ryoji Okazawa, head of the Japan Drug Manufacturing Company, is in Europe. He will attend the meeting of the League of Nations, as a civilian delegate.

E. C. Cripps, author of "The History of Ploughcourt," is preparing the biography of the late Sir William S. Glyn-Jones.