NEW REMEDIES

The asterisk (*) after the name of an article indicates that the information given is derived from the makers' publications. Further information regarding these articles may be obtained by application to the Editor.

Abidex Drops* are a stable, non-oily and non-alcoholic multivitamin solution intended for the prevention and treatment of vitamin deficiencies, particularly in children. Each 10 min. (30 drops) contains: vitamin A 5000 I.U., vitamin D 1000 I.U., aneurine hydrochloride 1 mg., riboflavine 0·4 mg., nicotinamide 5 mg., ascorbic acid 25 mg. The drops are well tolerated by infants and children, and may be taken directly or mixed with milk, fruit juice, soup or other foods; they may also be safely added to the contents of the infant's feeding-bottle. The average daily dose for infants under 1 year is 5 min., and for older children 10 min. The drops are supplied in 10-ml. bottles, with a dropper. S. L. W.

Beplex Elixir* is an aqueous extract of rice bran with members of the vitamin B complex added so that each ml. contains: aneurine hydrochloride 0·125 mg., riboflavine 0·25 mg., nicotinic acid 1·25 mg., calcium pantothenate 0·625 mg., together with significant amounts of choline, inositol and other factors; it also contains 16 per cent. of alcohol. The dose is 2 fl. dr. daily, or as prescribed. Beplex capsules contain: aneurine hydrochloride 1 mg., riboflavine 0·80 mg., nicotinamide 10 mg., pyridoxine 0·012 mg., and pantothenic acid 0·013 mg. The dose is 3 or more capsules daily. The elixir is issued in 4-ounce bottles and the capsules in bottles of 50. S. L. W.

Bismuth Sodium Triglycollamate. (*New and Non-official Remedies, J. Amer. Med. Ass.*, 1948, **138,** 749.) Bismuth sodium triglycollamate ($C_{24}H_{28}O_{25}N_4BiNa_7$) is a double salt of bismuthyl sodium triglycollamate and disodium triglycollamate, containing about 18·3 per cent. of Bi. It is a white, odourless, stable, crystalline powder with a saline taste, soluble in water and insoluble in organic solvents. It must comply with limit tests for carbonate, chloride, sulphate, nitrate, lead, copper, silver, arsenic and moisture. It is assayed by igniting at 700°C., precipitating the bismuth with hydrogen sulphide and weighing the bismuth sulphide obtained. Bismuth sodium triglycollamate is used for the oral administration of bismuth in the treatment of syphilis, alone, or in conjunction with other antisyphilitics. It has the same contraindications as other bismuth preparations. The total daily dose is 0·82 g. (equivalent to about 150 mg. of bismuth) to 1·23 g. (225 mg. of bismuth) given in 2 or 3 divided doses. It is supplied in the U.S.A. as tablets containing 0·41 g. (75 mg. of bismuth) under the trade-name Bistrimate. G. R. K.

Dermogesic Ointment* contains, in each 100 g., calamine 8 g., benzocaine 3 g., and hexylated metacresol 0·05 g., in a vanishing cream base. It is a bland, non-greasy, analgesic ointment for the relief of irritant skin conditions. It is supplied in 1 oz. collapsible tubes. S. L. W.

Dihydrocodeinone Bitartrate. (*New and Non-official Remedies, J. Amer. med. Ass.*, 1948, **138,** 820.) Dihydrocodeinone bitartrate ($C_{18}H_{21}O_3N$, $C_4H_6O_6$, $2\frac{1}{2}H_2O$) is the hydrated bitartrate of dihydrocodeinone, and occurs as a white, odourless, crystalline powder, soluble in water and slightly soluble in alcohol: a 5 per cent. aqueous solution has *p*H about 3·5. It is identified by the m. pt. of the base and the oxime, and is distinguished from morphine

by treatment with a solution of selenious acid in sulphuric acid : dihydrocodeinone gives a green colour, which changes to blue and then slowly to purple, whereas morphine gives a blue colour, which changes to green and then to brown. Dihydrocodeinone bitartrate in sulphuric acid solution gives no colour with ferric chloride (distinction from codeine). It is assayed by dissolving the precipitated base in excess of sulphuric acid and titrating back with sodium hydroxide. It has an action similar to that of codeine, but weight for weight is more active and more liable to cause addiction. It is used to allay cough in the same manner as codeine, but it has no clear-cut advantage over the latter. The adult dose is 5 to 15 mg. given 3 or 4 times in 24 hours; children of 2 years and over may be given half the adult dose and younger children one quarter the adult dose. It is supplied in the U.S.A. under the trade-name "Hycodan." G. R. K.

Isobornyl Thiocyanoacetate,-Technical. (*New and Non-official Remedies, J. Amer. med. Ass.*, 1948, **136**, 1099.) Isobornyl thiocyanoacetate contains 82 per cent. or more of $C_{13}H_{19}ON_2S$, mol. wt. 253·35, with other terpenes. It is a yellow, oily liquid; odour terpene-like; very soluble in alcohol, benzene, chloroform and in ether, practically insoluble in water. Refractive index, 1·512; weight per ml. at 20°C., 1·1465 g.; acid number, 1·19. When 5 ml. of 2N alcoholic potassium hydroxide is added to 25 mg. of isobornyl thiocyanoacetate-technical and the solution heated for 5 minutes acidified with diluted sulphuric acid, and a few drops of ferric ammonium sulphate test solution added, a red colour develops. When 1 ml. of a 10 per cent. w/v test-solution of ferrous sulphate is added to the heated mixture of isobornyl thiocyanoacetate and alcoholic potassium hydroxide and the solution is warmed for another 5 minutes and acidified with diluted sulphuric acid, a blue colour develops. On adding 1 ml. of 2N alcoholic potassium hydroxide to a 5 ml. of a 10 per cent. alcoholic solution, a yellow colour, which rapidly changes to deep orange, is formed. Isoborneol crystals, m.pt. 200° to 205°C., are obtained by hydrolysis with potassium hydroxide. Nitrogen, by the Kjeldahl method, should not be less than 4.6 per cent., which is equivalent to an isobornyl thiocyanoacetate content of 80 per cent. An oily emulsion containing 5 per cent. isobornyl thiocyanoacetate-technical and 0·6 per cent. of dioctyl sodium sulphosuccinate, is an effective pediculicide. L. H. P.

Myanesin* is a proprietary brand of $\alpha:\beta$-dihydroxy-γ-(2-methylphenoxy)-propane, and is the most effective member of a series of compounds possessing muscle-relaxing properties. It acts centrally by diminishing the reflex excitability of the spinal cord, and not on the myoneural junction as does curare. It does not act on the higher centres, and consciousness is not affected. Even in paralysing doses it does not produce respiratory arrest. Its use is indicated whenever complete relaxation of the abdominal musculature is required surgically without resorting to a deep plane of anæsthesia. It is suitable for use with any general anæsthetic or combination of anæsthetics, and is administered intravenously, usually in doses of 5 to 10 ml. of a 10 per cent. solution; the injection is given slowly 1 or 2 minutes before relaxation is required, and the effect of the dose lasts for 20 to 30 minutes. In patients with impaired renal function, or where a prolonged operation is being carried out, it is best administered as a 2 per cent. solution (prepared by the addition of the contents of a 10 ml. ampoule to 40 ml. of normal saline). Myanesin is issued in boxes containing 3 or 12 ampoules each containing 10 ml. of 10 per cent. solution.

S. L. W.

Panlittol* tablets contain 2½ grains of pancreatic extract and 1/10 grain of thyroid (B.P. 1932). The tablets are recommended for the control of essential hypertension, and in the treatment of disorders such as Raynaud's syndrome in which there is peripheral vascular spasm. The recommended initial dosage is 1 tablet 3 times daily, taken half an hour before meals; if necessary, the dose may be increased to 2 or 3 tablets 3 times daily. The administration of the tablets should be combined with the routine measures for the care of the hypertensive patient. Panlittol tablets are issued in bottles of 24, 100, 500 and 1,000. S. L. W.

Phytodermine* cream and powder are preparations for the treatment and prevention of fungous infections of the skin, particularly athlete's foot. The cream, which is applied to the affected part at night after bathing, contains phenylmercuric acetate 0·167 per cent., terpineol 1 per cent. and salicylic acid 3 per cent. in a water-miscible base. The powder, which is dusted into socks and shoes in the morning, contains methyl *para*hydroxybenzoate 5 per cent., salicylic acid 5 per cent. and perfumed talc 90 per cent. S. L. W.

Promanide* is pp′-diaminodiphenylsulphone-N,N′-di-dextrose sodium sulphonate (promin) in the form of a jelly containing 5 per cent. in a water-soluble tragacanth base, for topical application in the treatment of accessible tuberculous lesions, or of a 5 per cent. water-soluble ointment for surface application in conditions such as the ulcerative type of lupus. From 3 to 10 ml. of the jelly or ointment may be applied 2 or 3 times a week or more often, or the jelly may be injected into the abscess or sinus. Promanide jelly and ointment are supplied in 2-oz. jars. S. L. W.

Promin* is *pp′*-diaminodiphenylsulphone-N,N′-di-dextrose sodium sulphonate and is employed by intravenous injection in the treatment of leprosy. The treatment must be continued over a period of many months, the average intravenous dose being from 2 to 5 g. (from 5 to 12·5 ml. of promin solution), administered daily for 6 consecutive days and omitted on the seventh, with an interval of 1 week at the conclusion of each 2 weeks' treatment. Serious toxic reactions are rare, but patients should be under constant observation and blood counts taken every 2 weeks. Encouraging results are also claimed for the use of promin in tuberculosis. It is not a sterilising drug in tuberculosis, and the terminal stages of the disease are not improved, but arrest or temporary stabilisation of the disease can be expected in selected cases of early non-destructive lesions. The best results have been obtained in the preparation of patients for surgical procedure. Promin is supplied in sterile aqueous solution in 5 ml. ampoules containing 2 g. and in 12·5 ml. ampoules containing 5 g. It is issued in boxes of 25 ampoules. S. L. W.

***d*-Tubocurarine Chloride.** (*New and Non-official Remedies, J. Amer. med. Ass.*, 1948, **138**, 821.) *d*-Tubocurarine chloride ($C_{38}H_{44}O_6N_2C_{l_2}$, $5H_2O$) is the crystalline chloride of a quaternary base alkaloid obtainable from the bark and stems of *Chondodendron tomentosum* and related species (a tentative structural formula is given). It is a colourless or yellowish-white to grey or light brown, odourless, crystalline powder, soluble in water, slightly soluble in alcohol, and almost insoluble in chloroform and ether; m. pt. about 265° to 278° C. A dilute solution gives a brilliant blue colour when treated with Folin-Ciocalteu phenol reagent and sodium carbonate and heated in a water-bath. Other identification tests depend upon the production of a pink

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