Reports and Analytical Records

FROM

THE LANCET LABORATORY.

ZOEL ANTISEPTIC.

(AGENCY: G. LYNCH, WHITEHALL HOUSE, 29-30, CHARING CROSS, S.W.)

AMONGST boron compounds little attention appears to have been given to the monoborates, which bear a relation to diborates—e.g., borax—similar to that which carbonate of soda bears to bicarbonate of soda. The basic borate would, however, appear to possess valuable and distinctive antiseptic and deodorant properties which do not belong to the diborate or the free acid. We have recently had submitted to us a fluid preparation of monoborate of soda which, according to recent observations, has given most encouraging results in the treatment of wounds and in general antiseptic use. Some emphasis is laid upon the fact that it is alkaline which might imply irritating qualities. But this does not appear to be the case, while, of course, on account of its alkalinity it permits a free flow of lymph without causing it to coagulate or form incrustations. We have received some practical testimony on these points from hospitals where this monoborate fluid has been used in cases of wounds. The coagulating properties of an acid antiseptic would give preference to the use of an alkaline antiseptic so long as it is free from irritating properties, and that appears to be a favourable feature of the monoborate, which is besides a deodorant. The collaboration of an alkaline condition with an antiseptic means also that at the same time a detergent and cleanser is being used, encouraging the healing process. This development of the monoborates for antiseptic use, either in the form of potassium or sodium salt, is due to Mr. Charles Billing. The solution is quite stable and can be used if required warm. The hypochlorites, of course, are not stable under these conditions. There seems to be an interesting and important future in antiseptic work for the monoborates prepared in this way. Both a fluid and a dry salt are made.

BUTYL NITRITE.

(EVERITT AND CO., LIMITED, SOUTHALL, MIDDLESEX.)

We cannot trace any reference to the use of normal butyl nitrite in the same way that amyl nitrite has been employed in therapeutics, but the suggestion is of interest that the butyl nitrite might have advantages over its higher homologue and other nitrites which, as is well known, dilate the vessels and lower the blood pressure. The specimen submitted to us was a pale yellow oil which showed a boiling-point of about 68° C. It is, of course, somewhat more volatile than amyl nitrite and vaporises more easily, and a few seconds' inhalation causes the face to be flushed and a distinct effect on the pulse is accordingly produced. The preparation claims some attention as it may prove to have advantages over amyl nitrite derived from an alcohol of higher molecular weight. Toxicity decreases with reduction in molecular weight in many cases.

"KEPLER" COD-LIVER OIL WITH MALT EXTRACT AND CREOSOTE.

(BURROUGHS, WELLCOME, AND CO., SNOW HILL BUILDINGS, LONDON, E.C.)

This preparation represents the highly nutritive and digestive qualities of a malt extract prepared on scientific lines, of a refined cod-liver oil, and, lastly, of creosote, which possesses antifermentative properties. The combination is known to be of value in the treatment of phthisis, and it has the advantage of possessing an attractive flavour rather than a disagreeable one. In those cases in which it is desirable to help the nutritive needs of the patient—in wasting diseases generally—this preparation is, no doubt, of service.

BRITISH-MADE LANOLIN B.P.

(LONDON PHARMACEUTICAL REFINERS, LIMITED, MARTIN'S YARD, ENDWELL-ROAD, BROCKLEY, S.E.)

We have carefully examined this specimen of lanolin and we find that it answers all the requirements of the British Pharmacopœia. According to our examination it contained only 0.14 per cent. of moisture and 0.08 per cent. of mineral matter. These results are a long way below the limits set

out in the official demand. Further, we found that its acidity in terms of oleic acid was only 0.42 per cent., against a presumable limit of 0.7 per cent. It has been pointed out that in the test for acidity in the British Pharmacopœia it is recommended to make a solution in ether of 0.2 gramme for titration with N/10 alkali which would place the limit of free (oleic) acid at 7 per cent. It is an obvious slip; a solution should be made of 2 grammes and then the limit becomes 0.7 per cent. This matter is of some importance, as any increase in the amount of free fatty acid in lanolin is opposed to its value as a basis in many directions.

New Inventions.

A NEW BANDAGE FOR AMPUTATION STUMPS.

THE object of this bandage is to keep dressings on the stump after amputations in the lower limb; slight modifications of it will serve the same purpose in the case of the upper limb. Four pieces

FIG. 1.

of domette or flannel are used; the width should be about 4 in. The exact measurements will vary with the patient. The band a in Fig. 1 should go round the waist above the iliac crests; and b and c round the stump. It will be found better for b and c

to be nearer the lower end of the stump, as shown in Fig. 2. The band d should pass down the back of the thigh, then be brought round the bottom of the stump, and fixed anteriorly by means of safety-pins (as shown in Fig. 2 at e' and e''), and finally to the waist-band at e. The junction of the bands a and d can be made with safety-pins or, better, by sewing with cotton. In the case of a stump below the knee or the elbow the band a will, of course, be made smaller and go round the parts above the joint. In the application of this bandage (3 inches wide) to the upper limb above the elbow-joint the point e should be about the middle of the band a, which should be crossed over the shoulder in a figure of eight and fixed with a safety-pin round the neck. Point e' will be rather near to e; the band d should be brought down the inner side of the arm round the stump, and fixed with safety-pins on the outer side of the arm to the bands c and b. A 3-inch roller bandage should be first applied to approximate dressings to the stump, and then the bandage described above applied over it.

FIG. 2.

W. S. RICHARDSON,
Captain, R.A.M.C. (T.).

AN IMPROVED SUTURE FORCEPS.

THE improvement in the suture forceps as shown by the illustration consists in curving Moynihan's forceps on the edge, thus removing the obstruction to the line of sight.

The advantage is at once appreciated when the instrument is in use. It is now obtainable from Messrs. Allen and Hanburys, Limited, Wigmore-street, London, W.

Orpington, Kent.

E. W. DIVER, M.D. Durh.