

Reports and Analytical Records

FROM

THE LANCET LABORATORY.

CONCENTRATED DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN, "WELLCOME BRAND."

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

THIS concentrated diphtheria antitoxin is prepared by a method of salt precipitation which has been found to give the most satisfactory results. The advantage of the concentrated preparation is that the antitoxin can be given in comparatively small volume, and of course large doses are indicated in the treatment of diphtheria. Generally speaking, it is stated that sera treated by the method used in preparing this concentrated diphtheria antitoxin are less liable than the ordinary unconcentrated sera to produce rashes and other undesirable symptoms in susceptible patients. Hermetically sealed phials of 1000 up to 5000 units are supplied, each 1000 units being contained in 1 c.c. or less of the fluid.

IODINE TUBES.

(R. SUMNER AND CO., LIMITED, 50A, LORD-STREET, LIVERPOOL.)

These tubes are very handy for the extemporaneous preparation of tincture of iodine. On merely adding alcohol in requisite quantity the perfectly fresh tincture of iodine is at once obtained. The tubes have been made at the suggestion of Major F. J. W. Porter, D.S.O., R.A.M.C. They ensure the supply of an antiseptic fluid useful in many ways both to the army and civil surgeon. They are equally available for making the ordinary solution of iodine in potassium iodide.

PEPSIN AND BISMUTH.

(BLAKE, SANDFORD, AND BLAKE, 49, DOVER-STREET, PICCADILLY, LONDON, W.)

This may be described as a classic formula made up on modern pharmaceutical lines. It is a thin syrup with a slightly acid reaction containing the ammoniated citrate of bismuth and pepsin. It is quite pleasant to the taste and is permanent. Distinct evidence was obtained in an experiment we made of its digestive action upon animal protein, fine beef meal being employed for the purpose.

BROMURAL.

(KNOLL AND CO., 8, HARP-LANE, LONDON, E.C.)

Bromural was described on a previous occasion in these columns, when it was pointed out that it was a compound obtained by combining urea with the bromine-valerianyl group. Its sedative action is referred not to the presence of bromine, but to the iso-propyl group contained in the valeric acid. It is regarded as a harmless hypnotic, and this view of it receives confirmation from a recent case in which suicide was attempted by means of bromural. The patient had taken 30 tablets of bromural—that is to say, 150 grains. Healthy sleep followed, and after 16 hours the condition of the patient was in no sense serious. The patient ultimately resumed a normal state. It appears from this that bromural, while being prompt in action, is harmless even in large doses, and it does not appear to give rise to injurious secondary and after-effects. Its employment in neurasthenia and hysteria is favourably mentioned in German clinics.

GAULTHERIA EMBROCATION.

(CORBYN, STACEY, AND CO., LIMITED, 673, COMMERCIAL-ROAD EAST, LONDON, E.C.)

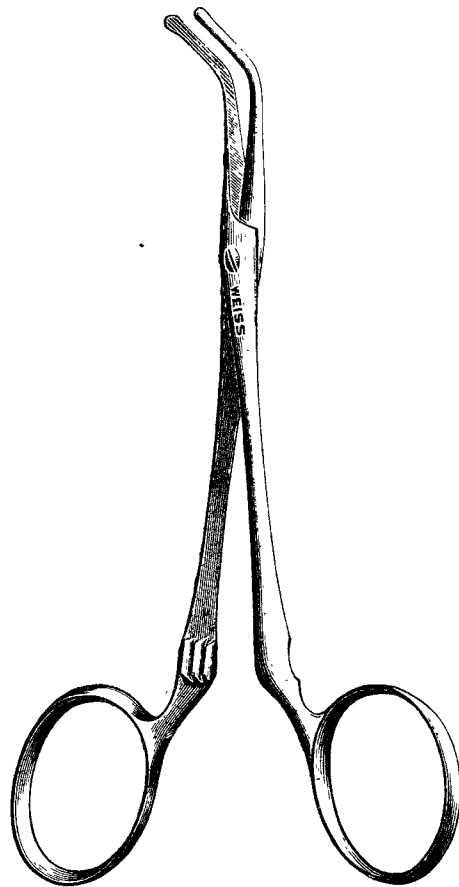
This is an emulsion of the consistence and the colour of cream. It contains ingredients of well-known efficacy, coupled with massage of the affected parts, in rheumatism, lumbago, and muscular pains. Chief amongst the ingredients

is gaultheria, and the embrocation gives with perchloride of iron a violet colour due to some separation of the salicylic acid. The consistence is pleasant and the embrocation is very agreeable in application. The preparation is also of service in muscular fatigue following hard exercise.

New Inventions.

NEW ADVANCEMENT FORCEPS FOR SQUINT.

THE accompanying figure depicts a forceps made for



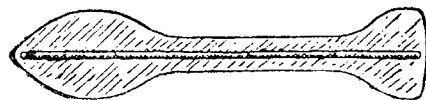
me by Messrs. Weiss and Son, of 287, Oxford-street, W., for fixing the muscle in squint operations where advancement is needed. The same forceps can be used with equal facility for right or left eye and is quickly adjusted. It has a three-pressure grade catch, which is advantageous in that the thickness of tissue enclosed between the blades of the forceps is not the same in all cases. It will be found that the finger-rings of the forceps make it easy to hold or to transfer from hand to hand, and simple for an assistant to retain without obstructing the view of the surgeon.

New Cavendish-street, W.

W. H. JEWELL, M.D. Lond.

SEMPULES.

THE sempule appears to us to be a decided advance in the way of suppository medication. Its shape, as seen from the accompanying illustration, ensures its contact with the affected part until completely melted. Fatty bases, therefore, can be employed which melt more slowly than those commonly used, and often enough smaller doses of medicaments under these conditions will be found adequate. In addition to the



Appearance in perspective.



Appearance in section.

convenience and adaptability of its shape the sempule contains also a wick which serves to keep the bulbous ends in position and to keep the melted medicament in its proper place between these ends. The innovation is a sound one, and was brought to our notice by the British Drug Houses, Limited, of 22 to 30, Graham-street, City-road, London, E.C.