

do leave a taste for some time, but that those supplied by Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome and Co. are very pure, and cause no unpleasant or ill effect after a three months' trial.

MESSRS. BURROUGHS, WELLCOME AND CO. write: In the letter of Dr. Hedley on Saccharin, in the JOURNAL of February 11th, he says that his patient complained of "an abnormally sweet taste always in the mouth," after about twelve or fifteen doses had been given. In this case a somewhat large dose may have been administered. Individuals differ so much in regard to the taste for sweet things that a slight excess will often disgust some. Considering the enormous sweetening power of saccharin—imparting as it does its flavour to many thousand times its quantity of water—Dr. Hedley's letter suggests that in many cases the minimum amount that will answer the purpose should be carefully ascertained in the beginning.

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† For the College of Physicians Replica.

§ For the University College Replica.

T. BARLOW, M.D., and W. R. GOWERS, M.D., Honorary Secretaries.

SALIX NIGRA.

DR. J. HUTCHINSON (Glasgow) writes: Since the introduction of the fluid extract of salix nigra into medicine, its use as a sedative has been attended with a considerable amount of success. I think it only right, however, to issue a word of warning to those who are prescribing the drug to make sure that the preparation they are using is made from pure salix nigra bark. I am told that a parcel of spurious bark has been sold in London lately, and it is the fear that a fluid extract made from this parcel may find its way into the hands of the profession, and so injure the rising reputation of the drug, that induces me to send this warning. True salix nigra bark is in pieces varying in size, rough, and of a greyish brown colour externally, with areas of light greyish colour. Internally it is smooth, pale silber-brown in colour. It easily splits longitudinally, has a fibrous fracture, and a bitter and slightly astringent taste. The false bark is totally unlike it, being without outer bark, and of the same colour in both surfaces, is without bitterness and very astringent, strongly resembling elm bark.

THE TREATMENT OF OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

DR. C. R. ILLINGWORTH writes: Permit me to add my testimony to that of Dr. Mules as to the value of mercurial germicides, compared with the wearisome and painful astringent treatment by nitrate of silver.

I use the biniodide of mercury in solution of sodium iodide, and prescribe thus: R Sol. hydrarg. bichlor. (1-500) 3j; sol. sodii iodidi (1-4) m xv; glycerin. ad 3iss. Misco. This I apply with a camel's hair pencil, once a day to the everted lids.

The nurse I supply with a bottle of the same lotion, of half that strength, for dropping into the eyes three times a day, and with a box of vaseline to smear the eyelashes, in order to prevent sticking of the lids. In four days all discharge ceases, and there remains only the granular condition of the lids. This I treat with the ordinary (1 to 1000) solution of the bichloride, mixed with the sulphate of zinc, of the strength of two grains to the ounce. The same in gonorrhœa.

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BOOKS, ETC. RECEIVED.

A Manual of Comparative Anatomy of the Domesticated Quadrupeds. By N. Hormaaji Edalji Sukhiá, T.M. and S. Bombay.

A Passage of Air and Faces from the Urethra. By Harrison Cripps, F.R.C.S. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1888.

St. Thomas's Hospital Reports. New Series. Edited by Dr. Gulliver and Mr. Clutton. Vol. XVI. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1888.

Tables of European History, Literature, Science, and Art, from A.D. 200 to 1888. By John Nichol, M.A. Oxon., LL.D. Fourth Edition, revised and greatly enlarged. Glasgow: James Maclehose and Sons, St. Vincent Street. 1888.

Burdett's Official Intelligence for 1888. By Henry C. Burdett, Secretary, Share and Loan Department, Stock Exchange. London: Spottiswoode and Co., 55, Gracechurch Street. 1888.

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