

Analytical Records

FROM

THE LANCET LABORATORY.

(1) MANGANESE CITRATE (SOLUBLE); (2) MANGANESE AND IRON CITRATE (SOLUBLE); AND (3) MANGANESE AND IRON PHOSPHATE (SOLUBLE).

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

THESE preparations form a very pretty series of soluble manganese and iron salts. The citrates of manganese and of manganese and iron represent, of course, organic combinations of the respective metals. The manganese and iron salt contains about 7 per cent. of manganese and 14 per cent. of iron, and the manganese salt contains about 12 per cent. of manganese. We have by analysis confirmed these figures. The preparations exist in the form of crisp glistening scales which are readily soluble in water. The addition of ammonia darkens the solution of the salts but there is no precipitate produced. The therapeutical indications of these preparations are obvious and they offer a very advantageous means of administering manganese and iron.

"OVUMALT."

(THE CONDENSED EGG SYNDICATE, LIMITED, 85, TOOLEY-STREET, LONDON, E.C.)

Ovumalt is not only a preparation in which fresh eggs are preserved but the preserving vehicle contains also according to our experiments an active (digestive) extract of malt. Our analysis assigns to ovumalt the following composition: moisture, 22.20 per cent.; mineral matter, 1.30 per cent.; proteid, 11.90 per cent.; sugar, 59.60 per cent.; and fat, 5.00 per cent. The proportion of fresh egg present is indicated by the amount of proteid and fat. As will be seen, the amount of egg present is not very high in relation to the amount of sugar. The compound, of course, contains ovelcithin and therefore phosphorus in organic combination which is valuable in disorders of the nervous system and in debility. We have also examined preparations containing respectively the whole egg, the yelk, and the white both in sweet and unsweetened form. They are quite satisfactory and highly nutrient articles.

"FELIXIR."

(BOOTH'S DISTILLERY, LIMITED, 55, COW CROSS, LONDON, E.C.)

This is a spirit which is described as having been doubly rectified and thoroughly matured in sherry casks. This description accords perfectly with the results of analysis which we have obtained in regard to the secondary products. They are as follows, recorded in grammes per hectolitre of alcohol present: absolute acidity reckoned in terms of acetic acid, 37.80; aldehyde, 4.20; furfural, 0.52; higher alcohols, 105.00; ether reckoned as ethyl acetate, 49.98. It will thus be recognised that this spirit contains far less secondary products in the shape of aldehydes, furfural, and higher alcohols than does malt whisky or spirit produced in the pot-still. Analysis further gave the following results: alcohol, by weight 43.00 per cent., by volume 50.57 per cent., equal to proof spirit, 88.62 per cent.; extractives, 0.41 per cent.; sugar, 0.25 per cent.; and tartaric acid, 0.03 per cent. The presence of a notable amount of ethers and tartaric acid indicates storage in sherry casks. The spirit is very pure and well matured. It has an agreeable flavour which is decidedly like that of gin but the colour resembles that of pale sherry.

MATÉ TEA.

(THE MATÉ TEA COMPANY, 180 AND 181, FLEET-STREET, LONDON, E.C.)

According to our analysis the feature of this specimen of Paraguay tea is a quite small proportion of tannin as compared with ordinary tea, while the amount of oils yielded is relatively high. The results of analysis were as follows: moisture, 7.00 per cent.; caffeine, 0.62 per cent.; mineral

matter, 6.4 per cent.; tannin, 6.13 per cent.; and oils and waxy matter, 3.12 per cent. Hot water extracted 34.40 per cent. of the leaf, of which 4 per cent. consisted of mineral matter. Maté tea affords a pleasant and refreshing beverage without the drawbacks of ordinary tea. It certainly seems better adapted for dyspeptics than is ordinary tea, whilst it contains the same stimulating principle caffeine. Maté tea, too, has hardly any astringent effect compared with ordinary tea. The flavour of Maté tea is pleasantly delicate. The leaf may be obtained either "broken" or in powder.

EUCRYL PREPARATIONS.

(EUCRYL, LIMITED, 9, RANGOON-STREET, LONDON, E.C.)

The basis of these disinfectant preparations, unlike so many of this class, is pleasant. The bath eucryl preparation is particularly so, forming a very agreeable adjuvant to the bath and having a pleasant but slightly stimulating effect. Bath eucryl is a clear, pale-brown liquid with an alkaline reaction, forming with water an opalescent fluid. The eucryl fluid disinfectant is a similar preparation containing, however, in addition to eucalyptus and pine oils, coal-tar derivatives which make it better adapted for ordinary disinfectant purposes. "Eucryl" forms also the basis of an excellent toilet soap and tooth powder.

"LACVITUM."

(PRIDEAUX'S PURE CASEIN AND LIFE FOOD COMPANY, MOTCOMBE, DORSET.)

This is a somewhat remarkable preparation since it is simply milk minus water and on adding a definite amount of hot water to it and stirring well a fluid is obtained presenting all the characteristics of milk and showing on analysis an identical composition even in regard to fat. In a word, it is a full cream milk powder with nothing added and only water carefully abstracted by evaporation. As natural milk contains nearly 90 per cent. of water the concentration in regard to nutrient value is of course considerable—an important fact when the difficulties and expense of transit of milk are considered. Further, the powder is not liable to decomposition and is sterile. Our analysis gave the following results: moisture, 5.34 per cent.; mineral matter, 5.96 per cent.; milk sugar, 31.26 per cent.; milk fat, 29.40 per cent.; and proteid, 28.04 per cent. This is the normal composition of milk of good quality, excluding water. It is obvious that lacvatum may have a number of very valuable applications in dietetics. Its nourishing value is, we need hardly point out, very high and it contains all classes of reparative material. In short, lacvatum is a complete food in concentrated form.

RENINE NATURAL MINERAL WATER.

(RENINE, LIMITED, 254A, HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON, E.C.)

This water owes its name apparently to the fact that it has marked diuretic properties, due partly to the nitrate of potassium which it contains. The water is drawn from the springs at Reipertsweiler, a village in Alsace. According to our analysis the "Renine" contains 0.376 gramme per litre of mineral matter in solution. The amount of nitrate of potassium is approximately one half of the total mineral matter. The rest is made up of the alkaline chlorides and the carbonates of the alkaline earths. The water is stated to be of value as a diuretic and a mild laxative and has been used in the treatment of heart disease in French clinics.

TELMA BISCUITS AND BREAKFAST FOOD.

(TELMA, LIMITED, 57, FENCHURCH-STREET, LONDON, E.C.)

We have already reported upon some of the "Telma" food preparations which have the merit of being rich in all classes of nutrient material. The proportion of proteid is excellent, as is that of fat, and the fact that the foods are malted renders them easy of assimilation. The breakfast food has an agreeable and appetising flavour. The proteids are to a large extent present in the soluble state. Telma biscuits are made both with and without sweetening material. We prefer

the sweetened biscuit. It contains an excellent proportion of fat and proteid and should prove a very nourishing article.

PEARSON'S ANTISEPTIC.

(PEARSON'S ANTISEPTIC Co., LIMITED, 254A, HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON, E.C.)

This is a well-made alkaline cresylic compound which forms a perfectly uniform milky fluid with water. Ten volumes yield eight volumes of coal-tar derivative on acidifying with hydrochloric acid. According to Dr. Klein the preparation is an effective germicide, his experiments relating in particular to the sterilisation of cultures of the bacillus coli communis and staphylococcus pyogenes aureus.

SPECIAL LIQUEUR WHISKY.

(DOUGLAS, GORDON, AND Co., 7, REGENT-QUAY, ABERDEEN.)

The analysis of this whisky was as follows: alcohol, by weight 43·00 per cent., by volume 50·57 per cent., equal to proof spirit 88·62 per cent.; extractives, 0·9 per cent.; and fixed acids, calculated as tartaric acid, 0·06 gramme per litre. In regard to secondary products the following were the results, represented in grammes per hectolitre of absolute alcohol present: acidity, reckoned as acetic acid, 12·00; aldehydes, 20·00; furfural, 2·50; ethers reckoned as ethyl acetate, 70·40; and higher alcohols, 180·00. The whisky is thus seen to be a "blend," but for the purpose of blending old matured spirit has been employed. There is nothing in these results controverting the statement made by the blenders that this spirit is "composed principally of old malt Highland whis-kies" blended in order to produce delicate flavour and *finesse*. The whisky is exceedingly "soft" to the palate and the flavour is mildly "malty." Storage in sherry casks is further indicated by certain of the results of the above analysis. The whisky is a well-matured and judiciously blended spirit.

PERKRESAN.

(HARTMANN, HOHMANN, AND Co., 33, SEETHING-LANE, LONDON, E.C.)

This is an alkaline fluid containing chiefly the cresylic derivatives of coal tar. It forms with water a satisfactorily uniform opalescent fluid. On adding hydrochloric acid to ten volumes of the fluid six volumes of antiseptic oils separated. These cresylic oils have, of course, a marked germicidal effect which renders the preparation an efficient disinfectant.

New Inventions.

A NEW AURAL DRESSING PROBE.

THE accompanying illustration represents a little instrument which I have designed and which I have found very useful for washing, and for what is even of greater importance drying, of the external meatus, and introducing cotton-wool when it is desired to leave a pledget of this material medicated or otherwise *in situ*. The instrument needs little description. For use a piece of wool is rolled on it and introduced by a rotary motion, which is continued during withdrawal. Should it be desired to leave the wool in the ear it is only necessary to reverse the motion, when the appliance will unscrew itself readily from the plug. To insure this the pitch of the screw is coarse and the thread wide, while the whole tapers to a blunted end and not to a sharp point as in most of the screw ear probes,



which on this account are dangerous in unskilled hands. The shoulder in my instrument would also tend to prevent its being inserted too far within the ear.

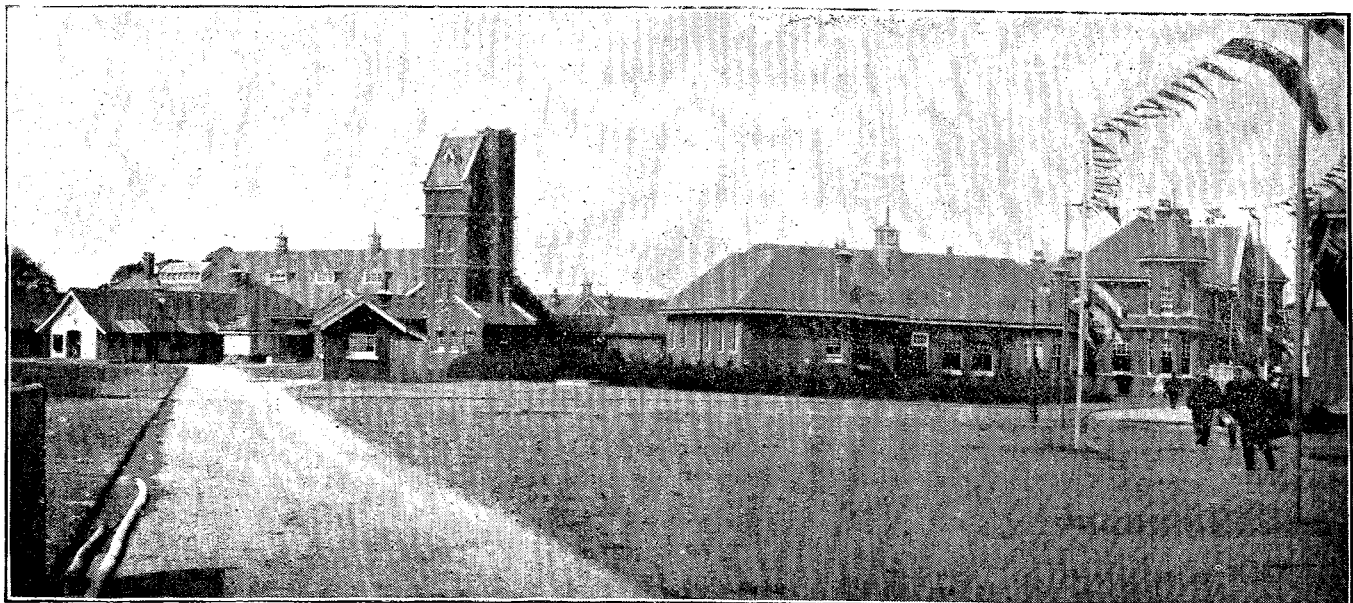
From personal experience I am able to speak of its thorough efficiency in cases of the tympanum with discharge, and in two cases of eczema of the external meatus I used it with success; the introduction of, and leaving in, a tight plug checked and improved the narrowed condition of the parts so often troublesome in this affection. In these days when dry dressings are so much in vogue I do not think their advantages are sufficiently impressed on patients suffering from ear troubles.

Messrs. Down Bros, Limited, St. Thomas's-street, Borough, have admirably carried out my suggestions and have made an efficient instrument in metal so that it may be cleansed thoroughly by boiling. It is made in two forms, with and without caps.

Plymouth, July 5th, 1903.

W. DIGBY LONGFIELD,
Deputy Inspector-General, R.N.

THE EPILEPTIC COLONY AT EWELL.



THE above illustration gives a general view of the new Epileptic Colony of the London County Council at Ewell, opened, as we announced last week, by H.R.H. Princess Louise (Duchess of Fife) and the Duke of Fife. We comment in a leading article which appears at p. 110 upon the buildings and upon the colony system of treatment of epileptics.