

## PERISCOPE.

Edited by G. F. DUFFEY, M.D., F.K.Q.C.P.

### ON THE INTERNAL USE OF GLYCERINE ASSOCIATED WITH CINCHONA AND WITH IRON SALTS.

M. A. CATILLON (*Repert. de Pharm.*, June 10, 1876) says that glycerine preserves iodide of iron from the alteration it invariably undergoes by exposure to the air, and M. Vezu takes advantage of this fact in proposing to substitute glycerine for water in the solution (1-2) used in pharmacies for the extemporaneous preparation of the syrup. Hitherto, says the author, no one has, to our knowledge, drawn attention to the remarkable property possessed by glycerine of preventing the action of cinchona bark on iron, and thus of removing the incompatibility of two important agents, which it is so often useful to prescribe together. This property is possessed by glycerine to such an extent that cinchona and the iodide of iron even (perhaps the most susceptible of the iron salts employed in medicine) may be associated without decomposition. It is well known that when iodide of iron is added to the syrup or wine of cinchona the liquid first becomes turbid, and speedily assumes an inky appearance, and there is deposited at the end of some days a blackish powder, which contains the iron as tannate. If the usual liquid be replaced by glycerine, the reaction is not observed, and the two (previously) incompatibles remain mixed without either the limpidity or colour of the cinchona preparation being affected. In addition to this, glycerine exerts on cinchona a solvent power comparable to that of alcohol, and which permits the retention of all its principles. Thus, it dissolves entirely the alcoholic extract, which contains them all, and the complex substance designated resin of cinchona, which contains a notable proportion of them. According to Soubeiran, this resin retains, in combination with the derivatives of cincho-tannic acid, known collectively as insoluble cinchona red, a proportion of alkaloid equal in value to one-fourth its weight of sulphate of quinine. The vehicles employed in the ordinary preparations of cinchona precipitate all this active part of the drug.—*Chemist and Druggist*.