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Notes & Queries

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(7818) E. A. writes: I have an experimental science book on electricity bought from you and would like to know if you could give me a few explanations about caustic potash batteries, page 408, Fig. 404, illustrated. I would like to know if possible the proportion for making this battery, how much zinc, oxide of copper and potash solution. Is it good for sparking purpose? A. The zinc may be of any size you find convenient. The potash solution is to be saturated, that is, dissolve all the caustic potash in the water which you can, at ordinary temperature. The copper oxide may be put on the bottom of the cell to the depth of an inch or so. Proportions are not important, else they would have been given in the book. You would better buy the Edison-Lalande cell, which is an improved form of this cell. It is widely used for sparking purposes.

(7819) C. L. says: I want to get a preparation of gums or some sticky material to use in this manner in tableting sheets of paper, spread thinly on cloth and dried; when wanted, to be wet with water in sponge and applied to the end of tablet, where it will hold every sheet, yet allow them to be torn off and will remain flexible. A. The composition is said to be prepared as follows: Glue, 4 lb.; glycerine, 2 lb.; linseed oil, 1/2 lb.; sugar, 1/2 lb.; aniline dyes, q. s. to color. The glue is softened by soaking it in a little cold water, then dissolved together with the sugar in the glycerine, by aid of heat over a water bath. To this the dyes are added, after which the oil is well stirred in. It is used hot. Another composition of a somewhat similar nature is prepared as follows: Glue, 1 lb.; glycerine, 4 oz.; glucose sirup, about 2 tablespoonfuls; tannin, one-tenth oz. Give the compositions an hour or more in which to dry or set before cutting or handling the pads.

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JANUARY 23, 1900,

AND EACH BEARING THAT DATE.

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