

THE JOURNAL  
OF  
LARYNGOLOGY  
AND  
RHINOLOGY;

*AN ANALYTICAL RECORD OF CURRENT LITERATURE RELATING TO  
THE THROAT AND NOSE.*

EDITED BY

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# CHAPTERS ON SOAPS.

## No. 1.

THOUGH soap is an article of every-day consumption, used and advertised very extensively, there is probably no subject with which the public is less acquainted. Soap is of course a salt, made by the action of a fatty acid on soda or potash, the combination with soda constituting hard soap, and that with potash soft soap. Some very good Toilet Soaps have a little potash or soft soap added to them to improve their grain. From these "soda-potash soaps" liquid soaps and shaving soap are commonly made.

Dividing soaps into two prime classes—one comprising those which are made at or above boiling point, and the other below—we proceed to consider the former under the following heads (taking no note of soft and soda-potash soaps):—

### Resin Soap, Curd Soap, Mottled Soap, Castile Soap, Brown Windsor Soap.

**RESIN SOAP.**—If resin, instead of fat, be added to an alkali, the sylvic and pinic acids present combine with the base to form a jelly-like mass, more akin in appearance to potash and a soda soap. This resin compound may be added to ordinary Toilet Soap to increase the bulk, without incurring a corresponding increase in cost of production. Sometimes fat, resin, and alkali are all boiled down together. Were it not for resin, enormous tablets of soap would never be sold for 1d. Resin hardens soap, makes it look bright, and lather more freely than it otherwise would do. It is resin soaps that are treated with "closing up" and "filling" agents, such as soda-silicate, which enable manufacturers to turn out products containing as low as one-sixth part only of soap. The expression "making water stand upright" owes its origin to the methods in vogue of sophisticating soaps. As a rule, the ordinary yellow kitchen soap contains a goodly proportion of resin; and the well-known primrose variety is made with pale window-glass resin. From resin soaps transparent soaps also are produced. Of the transparent soaps there may be said to be two kinds, one made with, and the other without methylated spirits.

Transparent soaps made *sine* spirit:—It has long been known that soap can be rendered transparent by resin, glycerine, sugar, and strong lyes (soap not dissolving in strong lyes any more than in brine). Transparent soaps of this class are alkaline, usually containing a large quantity of sugar and water and comparatively little soap, in some cases not more than one-sixth. Cocoa-nut and Castor-oil soaps are easily made transparent.

**SPIRIT TRANSPARENT SOAPS.**—As the methylated spirit will dissolve the soap but not the alkali, the spirit can be evaporated, and leaves the soap behind free from alkali. These soaps rarely contain glycerine, but an examination for sugar shows them to be rich in this constituent (from 15 to 30 per cent.). As the sugar dissolves readily in water, a greater amount of soap is consequently disintegrated, and thus the amount of alkali set free upon the skin by the extensive hydrolysis is far more than is desirable or necessary. Furthermore, the action of the methylated spirits, resin, and bad fats employed is, to say the least, objectionable. The stock soap used to make transparent soap costs from 16s. to 20s. per cwt. Formerly alcohol was used instead of methylated spirits, but the cost of the former is now so great that the methylated spirit has superseded it.

**CURD SOAPS.**—Curd soap proper is made from pure tallow, though innumerable so-called curd soaps are in the market which are made from a combination of fats. They are said to owe their name to the fact that the fats are rendered into a milky emulsion by the addition of *weak* lyes, stronger ones being used subsequently, and the soap ultimately separated into a curdy mass on top by the addition of brine, which remains at the bottom of the vat with the glycerine. Curd soaps are used as stock soap for the higher class of toilet soap, being blended, re-melted, milled, &c. As met with in the shops, they contain considerable free alkali, which should really preclude their use in the toilet. In refining, &c., the free alkali may be gotten rid of, though this is not always the case. They contain 20 to 45 per cent. of water, and often, in addition to lyes, a good deal of chloride of sodium.

(To be continued.)

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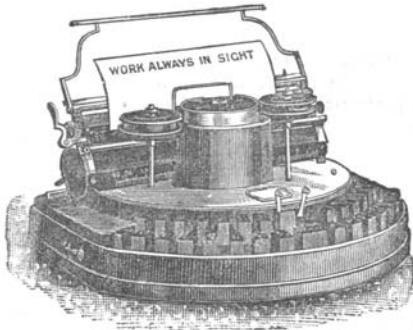


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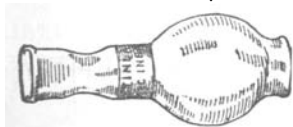
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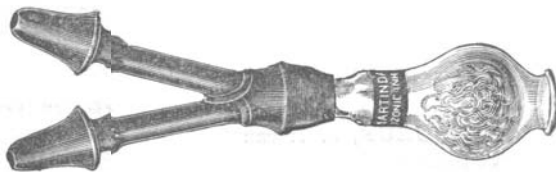
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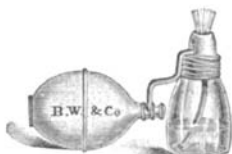
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