

whalebone as possible, and fasten the front with button and button-holes. Creaking corsets are a great nuisance, and as Nurses have often to stoop a good deal, this would act as a brace, and give them easy movement as well.

MUSTARD LEAVES.

IN connection with the subject of our Post-card Examination No. 13, referred to on p. 80, we have received a communication from Messrs. Robert Baelz and Co., of 14-20, St. Mary Axe, E.C., which cannot fail to interest those of our readers who employ the form of sinapism popularly known as the mustard leaf.

To such an extent is this convenient counter-irritant used, characterised by its "old-fashioned" simplicity, that we are surprised to learn, from recent continental investigations, that the method of its successful manufacture had hitherto remained a matter of considerable doubt.



Nor was the question solved without great

difficulty. For test purposes nine of the more popular continental mustard leaves were employed, each of which, however, showed on three points such contradictory characteristics, that recourse was only to be found in a practical physiological experiment, three square centimetres of each leaf being placed on the arm, the irritation and inflammation being estimated at the end of ten minutes.

In the order of strength in this latter respect we place them below numerically, showing also the results of the three other tests applied:—

Order as estimated by physiological experiment.	Weight of substance on 100 sq. cm.	Percentage of oil sinap. ess. on 100 sq. cm.	Percentage of the oil in meal.
1	5 1'72	5 0'0224	1 1'380
2	2 2'82	2 0'0326	4 1'258
3	7 1'27	6 0'0158	5 1'220
4	3 2'82	3 0'0295	6 1'049
5	4 2'39	1 0'0349	7 1'048
6	8 1'24	7 0'0156	3 1'260
7	9 1'05	8 0'0134	2 1'281
8	1 3'40	4 0'0250	8 0'730
9	6 1'56	9 0'0093	9 0'468

According to the above figures the true vesicating properties of the leaf cannot be arrived at by any regular calculation, but we may conclude

that so long as the layer of mustard is not too thin the amount of oil per surface space is no indication of the strength.

If we refer to the percentage of oil in the meal we find the figures equally inconsistent.

It must not be overlooked, however, that in the manufacture of "mustard leaves" irritants other than mustard are not unfrequently substituted.

Unfortunately this is an adulteration most difficult to detect. Capsicine, black pepper, &c., may not do any serious harm, but it is most desirable that the mustard should be absolutely pure and of the finest quality adapted to the special purpose of sinapisms. For this reason it is not judicious to place reliance on ordinary table mustard, the purity of which is invariably sacrificed for peculiarity of flavour, and the strength considerably lowered by adulteration.

Still, notwithstanding the many drawbacks, not the least of which are the disagreeably strong smell (of almost emetic influence) and the difficulty of application, to say nothing of the untidiness and cost, the use of culinary mustard will in many instances be necessary when the more convenient and efficacious mustard leaf is not readily procurable.

As is well-known to the trade, mustard leaves are of continental origin, and their manufacture is still retained by foreign houses, owing to the incontestible superiority of their products.

We have had the opportunity of examining a sample of Loflund's mustard leaves, handed to us by Messrs. Robert Baelz & Co., 14-20, St. Mary Axe, E.C., for the excellence and efficiency of which we can personally vouch, after having compared them with other makers'.

They appear to be as guaranteed, absolutely pure, very moderate in price, and being procurable through any chemist, packed in neat portable tins, we cannot too strongly recommend them as a valuable adjunct to a Nurse's requisites.

The firm in question have assured us of their willingness to supply samples free of charge to any of our readers who care to address them—an opportunity not to be missed.

CORSETS.

JUST now, whilst in the midst of our Post-card Examination upon this subject, it may be interesting to our readers to know that the "Duchess Corset," manufactured by the sole proprietors, Messrs. Young, Carter and Overall, 117, Wood Street, Cheapside, E.C., has been constructed with

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)