

A DEFENCE OF SUGAR-COATED PILLS.—In the last number of our esteemed contemporary, the *American Journal of Pharmacy*, there appears a paper, extending over nearly twenty-three pages, in which the writer, Mr. J. B. Moore, reviews the question of the solubility or non-solubility of the sugar-coating of pills while passing through the stomach or intestinal canal. Mr. Moore is evidently a very firm believer in his subject, and allows his enthusiasm to move him to greater lengths than we would have believed possible of a simple pill. In testing the merits of the case he would discard artificial gastric juice, and tumblers and test tubes would only mislead. "What we want" says he "for this important purpose are living human alimentary canals." Then is he ready for the crucial, or rather the intestinal test, which, if unattended by honor or renown, might not be altogether without profit, for Mr. Moore proposes a reward of merit, in the pleasing though commonplace form of a twenty-five dollar bill, to be presented to any chemist, physician, or pharmacist in the United States, who by the ordinary sugar-coatings used by manufacturers, can produce a pill, of given composition, which shall prove insoluble and inoperative. This, as our friends say "is talking business," and it is probable that the champions of gelatine-coated pills; compressed pills, wafers, cachets, and what not, will at once enter for the tournament, with what result we shall duly apprise our readers.

SOLUBILITY OF ETHER IN VARIOUS LIQUIDS.—In a paper read before the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, by Mr. H. Napier Draper, it was stated that 100 volumes of hydrochloric acid, sp. gr. 1.196, dissolve at -16° C 185 volumes of ether, sp. gr. 0.725; at 10° C, 167 volumes; at 16° C, 162.5 volumes; at 38° C, (100° F.), 135 volumes. There are but few instances of liquids showing such wide differences between the relation of solubility to temperature. At zero, C, the capacity for ether is nearly one-third greater than at 100° F. In addition to the experiments on hydrochloric acid, which the author stated in considerable detail, some particulars of the solubility of ether in other liquids were given. Thus, in regard to water, it was found that 100 volumes, at 11° C, would dissolve 10 volumes of ether; and 100 volumes of ether, at 12° C, dissolve 2 volumes of water. In saturated solution of calcium chloride ether appears quite insoluble. The absence of water in the ether used for the experiments was ensured by testing with bibulous paper, previously saturated with alcoholic cobalt chloride and dried. This remained blue after twenty-four hours' contact, a trace of water would have developed a red color.