

# \$500 for a Belladonna Plaster Test.

It has come to our knowledge that certain manufacturers have placed upon the market Belladonna Plasters which are made to show a high test for alkaloids, but which it is openly stated are not made of Belladonna, but of other drugs. (See Proceedings A.P.A., 1890, page 155, also American Journal of Pharmacy, April, 1898, page 182). We are also in possession of facts that tend to show that Plasters made strictly in accordance with the Pharmacopœia, containing a proper portion of extract of Belladonna, from the Laboratories of the most reputable Pharmacists in the world, such as Allen & Son, London; E. R. Squibb & Sons; Parke, Davis & Co.; Lloyd Bros., Cincinnati, are condemned by certain analysts as being below the Pharmacopœial Standard.

We are also aware that Belladonna Plasters contain little or no Belladonna, but stuffed with alkaloids for show assay, are accepted as conforming to the Pharmacopœia. We are also aware of the many difficulties and the lack of uniformity in the chemical assay of Belladonna Plasters, especially in Rubber Compound. (A recent published report of an assay by several analysts shows a variation of several hundred per cent. as applied to the same sample of Belladonna Plaster.)

In view of the uncertainty and unreliability of chemical tests commonly applied to Belladonna Plasters, and in view of the fact that they are of little value to the druggist or physician, who is unable to verify or disprove them, we are led to make the following offer:

We will pay \$500 for the best process of testing Belladonna Plasters, adapted to the use of the druggist and physician possessed of ordinary intelligence and faculties, which will show:

1. Whether a given sample of Belladonna Plaster is made of Belladonna, or is compounded from some other drug or drugs, or filled with mydriatic alkaloids for assays or other purposes.

2. Whether or not a given sample of Belladonna Plaster conforms to the Pharmacopœial requirements.

In other words a process which will enable any buyer or prescriber to judge of the reliability of the Belladonna Plasters on the market.

Further details and information as to this award will be made upon application. The award will be made by a committee of Pharmaceutical and Medical Authorities to be hereafter named.

Johnson's Belladonna Plaster is made of Belladonna; it conforms in strength of drug to the United States Pharmacopœia (incidentally to the B.P. 1885.)

We are desirous of securing a process that can easily be applied and that will convince buyers of Belladonna Plasters of the accuracy of this statement.

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