

Perfumes and Their Manufacture in Monte Carlo.

NOTES OF A VISIT BY MR. S. M. BURROUGHS.

A pleasant odour, as of a garden of flowers in June, greets one on entering the perfume laboratory of the Casino proprietors of Monte Carlo.

It is situated in the Condamine, opposite the old Casino, which is now used as a bathing establishment, where visitors have a choice of a swim in the sea if they prefer it to the hot baths inside.

The laboratory is arranged on two sides of a wide hall-way. In a room on the right are large copper cylindrical bins, marked *Eau de menth*, *Eau de fleurs d'orange*, *Eau de Cologne*, *Eau de roses*.

In the opposite room are large barrels containing 600 litres each of the special liqueurs invented by Madame Blanc. One of them labelled *Amara*, is the liqueur made of cinchona, bitter orange-peel, and Dutch curacao orange peel dried.

Another is marked *Cafe* and is composed of coffee, cinchona, and spirit of wine.

During the Franco Prussian war Madame Blanc sent two hogsheads of this liquor, called *Gallia Cafe*, to the ambulance department, where it was found very useful as a restorative cordial.

The hall-way leads to a court yard paved with cement, beyond which is the distillery. In one large copper still 400 lbs. of orange flowers are placed at one time with 75 gallons of water. There is no furnace in this room, a little heat is furnished by steam.

In an iron chamber like a large safe are shelves composed of bars of iron where trays of jujubes are placed to be dried by the heat generated in steam pipes at the bottom.

Another still is for rectifying alcohol and increasing its strength. Another still is a large copper vat with a false perforated bottom, upon which the peppermint leaves or orange blossoms are placed; the bottom can be removed easily by handles on the rim. When all is ready the steam is let on, which comes up through the mass of leaves or flowers, abstracting the volatile principles and passing out at the top through a pipe which connects with a condenser of about the same size as the still.

To show the steam pressure, the engineer raised to a boiling point an open jacketed pan full of cold water in three minutes. The steam pressure is 4 lbs., but for orange flowers the pressure is kept at 1½ kilos. A speaking tube and a telegraphic alarm bell communicates with the boiler house. Another jacketed pan has a capacity of 600 kilos, and is used for boiling syrups. There is a little still for experiments, which will hold about two gallons. Flannel bags are used for filtering syrups; paper filters for *Eau de Cologne*, the essential oils from which are prepared entirely on the premises.

Their oil or essence of *Eucalyptus globules* is of an amber colour; it was distilled

last year. The colour is acquired by age, and is about the same as of the *amara cordial*.

In the store room, about two drachms of the active principle of musk is shown in a small cut glass bottle. It cost to prepare 1,500 francs. The musk bags, with their hairy covering would, to a novice, hardly be thought worth 30 francs each; nor would the little block of ambergris if seen among the stones of the gutter, or even smelt of by itself, be thought to be worth 200 francs, though it is little more than one and a half inches square.

An elegantly cut and gilded bottle contains otto of rose made here, which required 25,000 kilos of rose leaves for the preparation of one kilo of otto.

The fatty matters extracted from orange flowers, and also from orris have a light brown colour, and are most fragrant of their source.

The oil of bigarade neroli has a most refreshing fragrance, and is the predominant odour of the company's *eau de Cologne*.

At the pharmacy of Cruzel they distil a very fine *eau de mentha viridis*. They also prepare all of the orange-flower water used in the pharmacy, but are so occupied with a large dispensing business that they have no time to prepare for the wholesale trade, though a finer water it would be impossible to make.

Mr. Cruzel is now engaged in preparing an aromatic antiseptic liquid of salol, thymol, naphthol, and saponified by means of quillain. This will be useful as an antiseptic dressing for wounds; also as a mouth wash. A few drops in water makes a milky liquid, which leaves an agreeable and cleanly taste in the mouth, while at the same time it will, of course, annihilate all germs.

For a bath about two ounces should be used. An antiseptic dressing for wounds can quickly be prepared by adding one or two teaspoonfuls to a quart of distilled water.

Oxygen gas is kept on tap for ready use from the gasometer holding 200 litres.

Granular effervescing salts are very popular in France. The newer preparations as of antipyrin, phenacetin, caffeine, have already taken their place with the staple citrate of magnesia and Bishop's bicarbonate of potash.

During the season there is usually a rush of business day and night, so by spring time Mr. Cruzel and all the assistants are glad enough to have time to take a long breath, enjoying a good sleep undisturbed by the bell, and also to refresh themselves by walks in the gardens opposite.

When in this little Eden, where Mr. Coulson is showing me round this afternoon, I am lost in admiration of the wonderful creations of Nature in plant-life, which, transplanted from the semi-tropic corners of the earth, find here a congenial home. Here, before us, is a splendid specimen of *Bitchardia filifera*, a splendid fan palm from California, with a

trunk four feet in diameter; and date palms, natives of Africa, by the hundred, which grow from twenty to forty feet high, their plume-like branches stirring with the slightest breeze.

The *Brachyehiton populneum*, from Australia, has a smooth, green striated bark, with bright green leaves to match.

The *Coculus laurifolia*, from Nepal, has smooth grey bark and dark green waxy leaves. The areca palm, from India, is one of the most graceful of its species, for the stem is perfectly straight and smooth, with circles where the branches have fallen. The *Eucalyptus* flourishes as elsewhere along the Riviera, uplifting its evergreen foilage high above all other trees.

The *Merops humilis*, from Africa, has great spiked leaves and a yellow blossom. The *Laguncula Patersoni*, is a graceful tree, with smooth, striated bark and small oblong leaf, from the Norfolk Island.

The *Thuia gigantea* has a most aromatic odour, and is valuable for inhalations. The *Abies pinsapo*, of Spain, is a small pine. The bamboos of China grow thickly, as in their native jungle.

The *Viburnum japonica* is so covered with large, pale green leaves that the trunk and branches are quite hidden from view. The condamine, which is in the valley between Monte Carlo and Monaco, and lines the harbour, was not many years ago the garden whence Mr. Rimmel got the flowers for his perfumes. The land is much too expensive for that purpose now, and is mostly covered with buildings. There are no taxes on buildings, incomes, or anything else in the principality, therefore most handsome and substantial structures are erected. There is no tax on the value of land either, so the selling price is very high, \$5 or more per square meter.

The pharmacy is kept open all the summer, for there is more or less business all the time. That is the season for making up stocks of medicines, packages of drugs, tooth powders, bottles of glycerine, &c., in handy sizes for retail in the busy season. The Casino is open all summer, and the splendid band play every afternoon on the terrace overlooking the sea. Mr. Cruzel and his assistants can have the enjoyment of this when off duty with their friends.

Therapeutic Notes of Interest to Pharmacists.

BY H. M. WHELPLEY, PH. C., M. D.

Tonquinal is the name of a new preparation sold as artificial meat. It has the odor of the animal product, but is not used in medicine. In fact, true meat is now seldom prescribed.

Male Fern may produce toxic effects in large doses, or when given on an empty stomach.

Fruit as a Medicine has in all ages been appreciated. A recent writer classes the different kinds as follows:—Under the category of laxatives, oranges, figs, tamarinds, prunes,