

turers. A training corps of dispensing pharmacists is necessary both to serve the physician and patient. It is prophesied that the old school will finally imitate the new, and dispense their own medicines. Even then there must be in every community a place where medicine is sold at retail. One familiar with the tendency of the times, cannot help seeing that the various schools are drifting to a common anchorage. The final harbour will be one in which all practice will merge into one. The physician of the future will dispense part of his medicine, and send his patients to the drug store for the other part. He will dispense such medicines as he can conveniently carry : and write prescriptions for all the bulky things like cod-liver oil, mineral waters, etc., etc.

This corps of trained dispensers will be competent to judge manufacturers and discriminate between them. A's pepsin is the best on the market. B excels in the manufacture of pills. C has the best stock of fluid extracts, etc. The medical profession will gain confidence in the judgment of the educated pharmacists, and depend upon them rather than upon the representations of drummers. This class of gentlemen, who now frequent the doctor's office, will confine their attention more generally to the pharmacists, except, possibly, at stated times, when physicians and pharmacists, together with the trained representatives of these houses, will meet in convention to discuss the problems of the day in regard to the preparation of medicines.

The pharmacist of the future will be educated in the use of the microscope for the examination of pathological specimens ; he will be competent to conduct urinary analysis ; he will be sufficiently instructed in surgery and therapeutics to treat minor complaints and emergency cases ; and he will belong to a great aid corps to the medical profession, and work hand in hand with the physician for the relief of human suffering.

Finally, each state will pass pharmacy laws that will prevent any one from manufacturing or selling medicine unless duly qualified by proper education and experience ; that will abolish secret formulas, and do away with the proprietary scheme with its abuse of trademarks, so that the pharmacy of the future will be carried on by competent professional gentlemen. Under such laws, that misnamed trade called the " patent " medicine business, can no longer exist, and the American public will have another cause for thanksgiving.

[F. E. Stewart, in Drug Bulletin.

DOSEAGE RULES.

The Indiana Medical Journal offers quite ingenious rules regulating the size of doses for children.

Let 21 parts be an adult dose, then give as many parts as there are years in the child's age. Thus a child of one year would get 1:21 of a dose; 6 years, 6:21; 14 years, 14:21.

For old persons let the full dose be represented by 60.60 and invert the fractions; thus, for a patient 65 years old, 60-65 of a dose; for 70 years, 70 or 6.7; for 80 years, 60 or 6.8, etc.

It must be borne in mind that children require smaller doses of sedatives, and larger doses of purgatives, proportionately, than are here given.

A NEW TEST FOR THE SALTS OF COPPER.

M. Donigies (Moniteur de la Pharm.) proposes the following:—Place in a test tube two cubic centimeters of a saturated solution (cold) of potassium bromide in water; add one cubic centimeter of concentrated sulphuric acid, and shake. After adding the acid, the lower portion of the mixture will turn slightly yellow, but this tinge will disappear on shaking, if the bromide be free from bromate. Add, now, 2 or 3 drops of the suspected solution, and the presence of copper, even in the smallest proportion, will be shown by a carmine coloration, which becomes more intense by

heating, and disappears on the addition of water. This reaction is exceedingly sensitive. It is produced also by solutions of some other metals, as nickel and cobalt.

THE OPIUM CROP.

The collection of opium, in the principal districts of Asia Minor which produce that important drug, is now approaching its end, and although no definite reports are yet to hand from Smyrna and Constantinople regarding the out-turn of the harvest, it may be taken as probable that the crop will be about a fair average one, few operators estimating it at less than 6,000 cases, while several generally well-informed firms place it at a not inconsiderable percentage in excess of that figure. At the same time it should be added that telegrams have been received here this week from Smyrna, the tenor of which is rather in contradiction to the mail news from that place, and indicate that during the last two or three days the Smyrna market has become excited, and that a pretty considerable amount of business has been done at a general advance in quotations. But in the absence of any definite and reliable details of this improved position, we see no reason to mistrust the general character of the news from Smyrna, and that does not appear to be of a really alarmist character. A crop of 6,000 cases would be scarcely sufficient to cover the normal consumption for a year; but it should not be forgotten that there must be a fairly heavy stock left over from last season, when the opium crop was, it is on all hands acknowledged, an exceptionally good one. This heavy stock, though much of it may be in the hands of very firm holders, will have to be reckoned with as a dead weight in the way of any sustained and considerable upward movement. It is thought that there were about 1,350 cases in stock here at the beginning of this month, and about an equal number is in the various Turkish centres, while America might add another 1,000 cases to the aggregate of the other markets. This stock is certainly from 10 to 15 per cent. larger than that which was believed to exist at the commencement of

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