

Pharmacy in England.

Wright's Directory, Interview with Mr. Geo. Wright—Liquid Paraffin as a Substitute for Olive Oil—New Style of Perfume Bottles—Bicycle Repair Outfits—Amiral Soap for Obesity—A Drug Journal's Commissioner to Canada.

(From our own Correspondent.)

I recently had an interview with Mr. George Wright, author and originator of Wright's Directory of Australia, India, China, Japan and nearly every country in the world besides. Those who have occasion to use such a directory are well aware of the accuracy and exceptional range which distinguish it. Mr. Wright is a typical Yankee, shrewd, persistent and business-like to his finger tips, but with a special knack of bringing everything round to his directory. Much to my surprise I found that this was only one of his undertakings, and, although the directory is only revised about every five years, the whole operation, including a visit to Europe to renew advertisements or secure fresh ones, only occupies about ten months. In England, Kelly's Post Office Directory is issued every year, and for the greater part of the year canvassers are calling house-to-house to make sure that no removals have occurred and to sell, if possible, a copy of the local part of the directory. Mr. Wright's method of collecting names and addresses seemed to me unique. He presses into his service the local postmasters of provincial towns, British and other consulates, railway companies, bureaux of information and banking companies, and rarely fails to obtain what he wants. The chief payment for this service is one or two free copies to the head department, and apparently they are quite satisfied. Slips are sent to the selected individual in each township or country, and the necessary alterations and additions are returned. The directory gives the trades, professions, commerce and manufacturers in Canada and Newfoundland, also a buyers' guide to manufacturers in Great Britain and America.

The price of the directory is \$10, but is supplied at half price to advertisers. Mr. Wright informed me, and I can quite believe it, that he has heard of numerous instances where advertising agencies and others have offered what they called a complete trade list for certain countries, and it was afterwards found that they

were abstracted word for word from his directory.

It has always been a mystery to me where the outlet could be for large quantities of liquid paraffin, the odorless and colorless variety of which has just been made official in the new B.P. It is, of course, common knowledge that vast quantities of the inferior qualities are used merely as lubricants for machinery, but there are some odorless, yet not colorless, varieties that demand a much higher price than machine oil. It now appears that hundreds of barrels are used for preserving sardines, the special advantages of this kind of oil over olive oil being its not turning rancid and cheapness. It probably answers just as well, if not better, than olive oil, except with those persons who consume the oil under the impression that it is a fat. In connection with this subject, it is amusing to record that the popular idea of sardines in olive oil is incorrect in each particular, as pilchards have largely supplanted sardines and petroleum olive oil.

It will be remembered that under the name of "Tatcho," the clever author, G. R. Sims, introduced ordinary paraffin as a hair restorer, and the article has certainly caught on. The malodorous properties are successfully disguised by the addition of citronella and bergamotte. The \$3 size is an elegant decanter-shaped bottle with globe stopper, gracefully tied with colored ribbon, and bearing only a small label round the neck of the bottle. This is the popular way just now of finishing off perfumes; the ribbon is turned round the stopper and tied in an elegant bow in front. When the ribbon is a contrast with the color of the perfume, as a yellow with green, and so on, the effect is very striking. Some new-shaped perfume bottles have just been introduced, and amongst the best are those that have a star at the bottom of the bottle that is deeply moulded and indented so that it can be clearly seen even when filled. White leather is being replaced by colorless gut-skin or even skins of different hues. The

craze of placing violets, artificial of course, on the front of the bottle of parma violets, or a spray of lily of the valley on the bottle of perfume of that name, is dying out. More attention is now being paid to the shape of and mouldings on the bottle, and also to unique designs in the stopper.

Those chemists who supply bicycles or are interested in bicycling should avoid manufacturing too small outfits for repair of punctures, etc. Some of those now on the market are absurdly small, evidently intended to be carried in the vest pocket. This is all right until one meets with a large puncture, then the piece of rubber, not larger than a nickel, is found of no use, and as the pieces are all circular it is by no means easy to make a good repair. Besides this, the glass paper used for scrubbing the inner tube before applying solution is too small to handle conveniently. Solution is nearly always supplied in collapsible tubes, and a cyclist's embrocation, on the basis of lin. terebinth. of the pharmacopoeia, can well be put up in this manner. A very successful preparation for rubbing into strained or tired muscles is made of soft soap with a little capsicum and turpentine added and slightly tinted to flesh color.

One of the latest novelties produced here is "Amiral Soap." The name apparently would be more correct if called "Savon d' Amiral." But the claim on behalf of this preparation, and the price is, sufficiently startling to attract attention. It is stated to reduce corpulency by merely using it in the ordinary manner and the retail price is \$1 per tablet! A testimonial—it can hardly be called an analysis—is published from a medical man, who asserts that he has analyzed the soap, and found nothing deleterious or harmful, which reminds one of a judicious analysis published about a popular hair-restorer, which, from the negative character of the report, might have consisted of distilled water for all the information conveyed. At any rate, Amiral Soap has jumped into some prominence, and I hear that several medical men are recommending it. The capital of the company running the soap is \$100,000, so that more will probably be heard of it, especially if it be true that several members of the syndicate who own the patent are those who first exploited Maypole Soap, used to dye fabrics.

One of the English drug journals has