

During my experience in the apothecary business I received the following:

Potassii chloratis,  
Sacchari aa ʒi.

Triturate, and acidulate with a drop or two of sulphuric acid and add water sufficient to make three fluid ounces.

If the instructions for preparing this are carried out active combustion is bound to result.

#### CORROSIVE SUBLIMATE AND STRYCHNINE.

Occasionally a physician may order a solution of strychnine sulphate and bichloride of mercury, aa, gr. 1 to the drachm. If the pharmacist uses a solution of bichloride of mercury, in which ammonia is a usual ingredient, the mixture becomes semi-solid, caused by the ammonia used to hold the mercury in solution. A common mistake is as follows:

#### QUININE, LIQUORICE AND SULPHURIC ACID.

Quinine sulphatis gr. x,  
Aciduli sulphurici aromatici q. s.,  
Extracti glycyrrhizae fluidi f ʒi.

The acid in this is incompatible with the liquorice. It precipitates and renders tasteless the sweet principle. A better method is to suspend the quinine in the liquorice.

I have filled the following a number of times, but it is decidedly unsafe:

Potassii permanganatis ʒ ss.,  
Glycerini,  
Aque destillatæ aa f ʒ iii.

Not long ago I saw the following:

Morphine hydrochloratis gr. ii,  
Ammonii chloridi ʒ ii,  
Tincture aconiti ʒ xx,  
Aque camphoræ f ʒ ii.

The camphor water should be replaced by some other vehicle, otherwise there will be a deposit formed.

Finally, "as directed" is a perfunctory direction often added to prescriptions. As the memory of the nurse or patient is likely to be weak, errors may be easily made under such lax directions.—*Pittsburgh Medical Review*.

#### The Pharmacist as Philosopher, Poet and Author.

That portion of the annual address of President E. L. Patch delivered before the American Pharmaceutical Association at the recent meeting at Asheville, N.C., treating of pharmacists in literature, will probably be read with not a little interest.

The question has been publicly asked, the speaker said, whether a pharmacist was ever known to honor his country by attainments as a poet, an orator, or a statesman.

Any one familiar with our craft would see in the intense application to petty details which is essential to conscientious service the reason for non-development in general lines. An ex-lawyer or ex-physician who acquires distinction in public service obtains reputation for his profession, but, putting aside the undeniable fact that the members of these professions have a much higher average of general culture than pharmacists as a class are

permitted to reach, the latter leave their calling and their relation to it forgotten.

With professions and vocations as with men we pass without comment the theory that blood tells, and ignoring all achievements of ancestry we concern ourselves with the quality and character of the individual who to-day stands before us and honor him for what he is and for what he does and not for what his fathers were or did. Yet there have been great men who were ex-pharmacists. Moses, the law giver, must have been trained in pharmacy at the priestly schools at Heliopolis; Aristotle left his home in Stagira to become an apothecary at Athens, but association with Plato fitted him to become tutor of Alexander. Galen was quite as much apothecary as physician. The unfortunate poet Keats was a drug clerk at Edmunton for five years of his too short life.

George Crabbe, the English author, was a druggist. Louis Desire Veron, the French author and journalist, began life as a pharmacist. Carl Wilhelm Scheele, the Swedish discover of manganese, chlorine, barium, oxygen, prussic acid, etc., lived and died a pharmacist. Serturmer, who by the discovery of morphine revolutionized the practice of medicine, was an apothecary.

Sir Humphrey Davy was an apothecary's apprentice to M. Borlass, at Penzance, England, but the chance reading of "Elements of Chemistry" by the martyr French chemist, Lavoisier, led him into his broader career.

Did any of you who visited the marvelous White City and were attracted by the remarkable exhibition made by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad showing the evolution of the locomotive realize that the world was largely indebted to an apothecary of Baltimore, William Morris, for the first practical six-wheeled locomotive, capable of climbing an incline, and that the achievements of his locomotives "Washington" and "Lafayette" at the Columbia Incline, Philadelphia, and the "Philadelphia" at the Lickey Incline, England, led to the establishment of the Royal works at Vienna under his direction?

And as you looked over that exhibition were you not impressed as never before that nearly all advance is by very short successive steps, the present building upon the past?—*Western Druggist*.

#### Ginseng.

The products of Corea are but little known in the commercial world. Trade in that country is carried on by means of markets or fairs, and transactions are hampered by the deficiency of the currency. Foreign commerce there is none, unless the annual fair held at Pien-men is to be counted an exception.

Among the products of Corea peculiar to itself is that of Ginseng, a root of great medicinal value. The demand for it is so great that many other roots are substituted for it, especially a kind known in commerce as American ginseng, imported from the United States. The finest

kind of root grows wild in the mountains of Manchuria. At one time this particular kind was considered of so fine a quality and, in consequence of becoming scarce, that an Imperial edict was issued prohibiting its collection. Its value varies from three to twenty pounds sterling per ounce. Roots of this latter quality can only be purchased by the wealthy. The real Manchurian ginseng is only found in the upper valley of the Usuri, where ruined towns and forts mark the cradle of the race, which seven centuries ago ruled over China from the Yellow River to the great wall.

Ginseng loves moisture, and in the densest of the forests which cling to the slopes of the hills, it nestles in recesses, which the rays of the sun have never penetrated, and which are as pathless now, as in the days when the golden Tartars were dwelling in, and cultivating the plain. The genuine Manchuria, consists of a stem from which the leaves spring, and of two roots branching off at the same point from each side of the centre root. The stem somewhat resembles the head and neck, and the side roots the shoulders and arms of a man; the main root represents the body, and a fork which the roots frequently form, the legs. The Coreans, with a not ungraceful feeling, believe that a plant, which thus expands into the human form amid thickets and jungles, on which the foot of man has never trod, must be intended to alleviate the sufferings of the human race. Its precious qualities are increased and intensified by age, and a plant is of no great value until it has been growing and gathering strength for at least an ordinary lifetime. The age, and, consequently, the value of a plant, are ascertained by a careful examination of the upper portion of the centre and side roots. These portions should be covered with rings, and the thicker and more numerous the rings the greater the age. The value of ginseng in no way depends upon its length, thickness or color. The upper portions of the root also possess healing power. The stem which appears above ground, on the other hand, ought not to be eaten. It is supposed to be hurtful rather than beneficial. In former years the collection was in the hands of some forty merchants, who, on payment of a heavy fee, obtained the necessary authority from the Tartar general. In addition to this fee, every merchant was bound to hand over to the Government a certain weight of the object of his search. This continued from May 1st to September 30th. In the gathering of the root, merchants employed outlaws. These men underwent great hardships, and incurred frightful dangers. Forced to wander far from the patches of millet they had raised for their support they were even menaced by starvation as well as by the wolf, tiger or leopard, and not unfrequently these hardships were endured in vain, for ginseng becomes yearly more scarce, and plants of any great age are but rarely found. Finally, in order to arrest its utter extinction, the collec-