

## MEDICAL PREPARATIONS, ETC.

## THE POISON LABEL IN RUSSIA.

Since the Russian Government enacted a law requiring the poison label to be attached to all containers of Vodka (a strong alcoholic beverage), numerous cases of accidental poisoning have been reported from various parts of the Empire. There is a large population of illiterates in Russia, and with them the poison label appearing on Vodka bottles has come to stand for Vodka. As a result many bottles of really poisonous mixtures are being drunk by these people under the impression that any bottle bearing the poison label contains Vodka. This emphasizes the danger of making the poison label too common, for while we have few illiterate adults, we have many children, and to them the poison label now means a sign of real danger. The attempt to impose the poison label upon drugs, medicines and household remedies, which have been freely and harmlessly taken for years, cannot be too severely condemned. When the poison label appears too often, and on nearly everything, children as well as adults will become careless of poison labels, because the word Poison and the skull and crossbones will lose their terror, and bottles and boxes of really poisonous drugs will be carelessly left with bottles of harmless remedies, because all are labelled alike. The dangers to the public, and to children particularly, of this confusion cannot be overestimated.—*The New England Druggist*.

## ECTHOL.

In Ecthol we have a preparation of vegetable origin, which possesses strong antipurulent properties, properties which may be described as specific. Ecthol is nontoxic, so that it may safely be employed by the unskilled, who are thus armed against septic complications. It contains the active principles of two remarkable plants, viz.: *Echinacea angustifolia* and *Thuja occidentalis*, two American shrubs that have long rejoiced in an extensive reputation as a dressing for wounds. The action of Ecthol is not limited to wounds and suppurating lesions of integument. Its antipurulent action is equally manifest when given internally in the acute specific fevers, in erysipelas, and generally in all cachetic states with a tendency to pus formation. It constitutes an excellent dressing for fresh wounds, which are thus protected against septic invasion, but its inhibitory and destructive action on pyogenetic organisms renders it invaluable as a local application to boils and car-