

Notes for Dispensing Pharmacists.

Intelligent people often "think of one thing and inadvertently speak of another." Pharmacists will do well, therefore, to acquire a habit of repeating each order interrogatively, and before proceeding to fill the requisition getting a clearly expressed assent from the customer, that the wrong article may not be dispensed.

Too many precautionary measures, and too much vigilance can not be exercised to prevent handing prescriptions to the wrong person when several are waiting. This is a very natural mistake, and is especially dangerous when the prescriptions are simply labelled "use as directed," as there is nothing to arouse the suspicion of the customer.

The dispenser should always receive prescriptions with becoming dignity and assurance, and proceed to compound them in a prompt serious manner, bearing in mind that his movements are often closely watched by the customer, who may have just left the sick chamber or bed side of some cherished one whose life is in the balance.

Pharmacists should invariably calculate the dose and consider the incommensurability of the ingredients of the prescription before compounding it.

Don't assume that the dose of an alkaloid is safe simply because it amounts to only a fraction of a grain; we remember well a case of this kind in which a bright young pharmacist came to grief by dispensing a mixture containing one-eighth of a grain of atropine in each dose; similar delinquency might prove serious in the case of aconitine, colchicine, etc.

Always review your work and the original prescription, being especially certain that the directions on the label correspond with those on the original, before delivering the mixture to the messenger.

In numbering prescriptions, be on the alert to avoid duplicating the number of the last prescription instead of numbering consecutively; such an error may, in case of a "renewal," lead to serious consequences, particularly if one prescription happens to be a four ounce aconite liniment, and the other a four ounce mixture for internal use, both having a similar appearance.

Never let a package leave the store without a neat distinct label upon it, whether its contents be innocuous or poisonous.

Every package should be labeled at once, particularly in case of prescriptions, as the practice of allowing unlabelled parcels to remain about will, inevitably, cause doubt, and lead to some grave error sooner or later.

It is a good rule to place a poison label on all poisons not prescribed by a physician. If solid and wrapped in paper, it should have two wrappers, and both be labelled poison. When a poison label is affixed to a bottle, it should be placed above the descriptive label where it will be most likely to be seen, and less likely to be covered by the hand in holding the bottle.

Never paste a new label over an old one when a prescription is "repeated," or when a bottle

is filled with a preparation differing from that which it formerly contained; the upper label is likely to fall off or to be accidentally removed, when your bottle will be incorrectly labelled.

Always keep in mind the possibility of confusing "Tincture Opil Camph." and "Tinct. Opil Comp."

It is a good plan to avoid unnecessary use of Latin plain English is quite as expressive and less likely to be misinterpreted by associates. This is essentially applicable to dispensers who are not good Latin scholars.

Avoid unnecessary abbreviation—it takes but little additional time and effort to write out the full names, and many ambiguities will thus be averted.

Keep and use a set of metric weights; a certain amount of danger always attends the conversion of metric prescriptions into apothecary's weights and measures.

Don't carry on conversation while putting up prescriptions.

The common observer is apt to judge the workmanship of the dispenser by the appearance of the parcel; and although the prescription proper may have been ever so skillfully compounded, a poorly written label, untrimmed, or pasted crookedly on the bottle, will often give the impression that a workman who is so imperfect in the rudiments of his profession is apt to be equally so in the execution of its technicalities.

Nothing impresses a patient or physician more unfavorably than to receive a box of powders folded in irregular shapes and sizes.

"When you don't know what to do, do nothing" until you look up the necessary information.

Never criticise a physician's prescription by word or action, in the presence of the patient. If you discover what you consider an error, make some excuse to delay its delivery, and in the meantime refer the prescription to the physician for correct instructions.

Some system of checking ingredients as put into a prescription should be adopted, and invariably used, to prevent duplication or omission if you happen to be called away suddenly.

It is a commendable custom to powder all salts and mix or dissolve with a portion of the liquid, in a mortar, before putting them in a bottle. Some dispensers form a habit of dumping crystals or powders into a bottle of liquid, taking it for granted that they will dissolve.

It is never a good plan to keep the morphine and quinine bottles near each other, and some special precautions should be taken to prevent confusion of these commonly-called-for substances.

Memorizing formulas is a dangerous practice. It is always safe to consult the authorities.

It is usually poor policy to voluntarily undertake to destroy a customer's confidence in the remedy that he calls for.—*Druggist's Bulletin*.

A new drug business has been opened in Victoria, B.C., by E. B. Hill, of Ontario.

W. Lloyd Wood having decided to relinquish the retail drug business has sold his business on Church Street, Toronto, to Mr. C. Lusk.

CHOCOLATE SYRUP FOR SODA FOUNTAINS.—L. G. Heinrich, in *N. E. Drug.*, respectfully submits a formula that will make an excellent syrup, superior in strength and flavor, to those made with the "prepared chocolate," or extract of cocoa now offered in the market:

Confectioners' chocolate	1 pound.
Hot water	2 quarts.
Condensed milk	1 can.
Granulated sugar	5 pounds.
White of two eggs	
Extract of vanilla	1 ounce.
Gum foam	1 ounce.

It should be prepared in a porcelain lined evaporating dish, and the chocolate cut fine into the dish, apply heat, rubbing the chocolate with a pestle until a smooth paste is obtained, to which add the water (which must be boiling hot) gradually, stirring constantly, then stir in the condensed milk and sugar until both are dissolved; set aside to cool. When cold skim off the cocoa butter, particles of chocolate, etc., which will have covered the surface, add the whites of eggs, previously well beaten, the extract of vanilla and gum foam, strain through muslin, and it is ready for use.

Literary Notes.

A NEW MEDICAL DICTIONARY. Including all the words and phrases used in medicine, with their proper pronunciation and definitions, based on recent medical literature, by George M. Gould, B. A., M. D., Ophthalmic surgeon to the Philadelphia Hospital, etc. With tables of the bacilli, micrococci, leucomaines, ptomaines, etc., of the arteries, muscles, nerves, ganglia and plexuses; mineral springs of the U. S., vital statistics, etc. Small octavo, 520 pages. Half dark leather, \$3.25; half Morocco, thumb index, \$4.25. Philadelphia: P. Blackiston, Son & Co.

This work seems to us to exactly fill a want, in supplying the necessary definitions of words and terms not before published, and of recent date in addition to those of former publications. The matter is concise and practical and the typography all that could be desired. No druggist or physician should be without this valuable aid.

The treatment of Torticollis (Wry Neck) with description of appliances, also for Caries of the vertebrae (Pott's disease), by Chas. F. Stillman, M. Sc., M. D., Chicago, being reprints from medical journals.

The Morse Soap Co. have added to the diversity of their output a new toilet soap, which is moulded into spheres. Three balls go to the package, all differing in color. The colors are delicate and so is the perfume. It should be a very saleable article.

Subbenzoate of Bismuth is another addition to the number of substitutes for the odorous iodoform that are being offered as antiseptic agents. According to E. Finger, this is prepared by precipitating it from a solution of subnitrate of bismuth in dilute nitric acid to which is added an aqueous solution of benzoate of sodium. The white precipitate thus obtained is washed on a filter with water and alcohol, and dried. A fine white powder is thus obtained, having a slight odor of benzoic acid, that can be freely used in the manner that iodoform is applied.