

Pharmacy in England.

Quinine Lemonade—Cinchona Wine and Syrup
—Filters and Radam's Microbe Killer—The
Assistant Lecturer at School of Pharmacy
Provincial Enterprise—Messrs. Richardson
of Leicester.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

During the recent outbreak of influenza the Chemists' Aerated and Mineral Waters Association introduced quinine lemonade as a certain preventive and useful tonic for this disease. The evidence in favor of the prophylactic properties of quinine, in large doses, is unquestionably very strong, and the introduction of a pleasant and palatable preparation, that could be safely recommended, was most opportune. The ammoniated tincture of quinine has obtained a very wide notoriety as a useful preventive, but has the drawbacks of not mixing clearly with water, and its taste is simply nauseous. Mr. Lunan has pointed out that it will mix clearly with plain aerated or "soda" water, but this does not affect its unpalatability. An easy and effectual method of disguising the extreme bitterness of quinine has yet to be suggested, and would come as a boon to many patients. It is well known that by dissolving quinine one increases its nauseousness, and that Anglo-Indians and others, who consume large doses of ten and twenty grains, simply suspend it in water. Recent attempts have been made by manufacturers of gelatine capsules to enclose the quinine with carbonate of ammonia in capsules, but the ammonia salt is a very troublesome addition. Certainly capsules of quinine are about the most satisfactory method we have at present of exhibiting the drug.

Under royal letters patent, Messrs. Fletcher, Fletcher & Co. have prepared a liquid extract of cinchona bark which is stated to possess certain advantages over the official preparations. Hydrobromic acid is employed for the purpose of extracting the whole of the alkaloids, and the acid liquid is evaporated at a low temperature and standardized so as to yield 5 per cent. of total alkaloids. The intimate combination of the alkaloids with hydrobromic acid is claimed to possess the advantage of enabling patients to take this preparation of bark, when the ordinary liquid extract of quinine itself produces the unpleasant symptoms of cinchonism. A further step in the elaboration of the pharmacy of this new extract has lately been taken by Messrs. Fletcher. They have successively introduced a syrup and wine of cinchona, each prepared from the liquid extract. These articles are palatable and effective tonics, and, introduced just after the influenza epidemic, they were seasonable and have already caught on.

We live in an age when reputations that have taken years to build up are shattered in a moment. Something of this reflective nature must have passed through the enraged mind of more than one filter manufacturer when the *British Medical Journal* brought the merciless skill of bacteriological examination to

bear upon the claims put forward in favor of their filters. In the end, as your readers may remember, only three filters, out of more than a dozen of the principal ones advertised, were found to answer the tests imposed, and to effectively do what was claimed for them. Now, another journal has been tilting against Radam's Microbe Killer, and has published an analytical report in which it is stated that the following is the composition:

Analysis in parts per 100,000.	
Ash on ignition.....	52
Sulphurous acid (H_2SO_3).....	74.68
Chlorine (as chlorides).....	2.82
Nitric acid (as nitrogen).....	1.0

The net result, of course, is that it consists of a dilute solution of sulphurous acid in ordinary tap water. The commercial value is stated to be not more than six cents, whilst it is retailed at \$2.56 per gallon. If I remember rightly, Dr. Eccles was concerned in a similar exposé in the United States some few years ago.

The school of the Pharmaceutical Society has been particularly unfortunate during the past few years in not securing the services of an acceptable assistant-lecturer in Chemistry and Physics. When Professor Dunstan took the chair of Chemistry, Mr. Dymond was appointed assistant-lecturer and was popular with the students and a fair lecturer. But, since then, the succession has been merely from bad to worse. Mr. Harrison, now in the laboratory of Messrs. Brady & Martin, wholesale and retail druggists, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, was also popular, and had a ready, free-and-easy manner that was not displeasing to students. When he left, Professor Dunstan was anxious to appoint Mr. Carr, one of his colleagues in the Research laboratory, but the council wisely declined, or the matter was not pressed beyond committee. The present assistant-lecturer is neither popular amongst the students nor is his style appreciated. It is reported that in a lecture delivered recently he employed the word "obviously" no less than forty-nine times. Needless to say, it has been utilized as a *soubriquet*. But a short time ago, matters assumed a more serious aspect, as a petition was drawn up and signatures obtained, asking the council to remove him. Some of the ringleaders thought, however, that nothing would result, so the subject dropped. Still, it must have reached the ears of the president or some of the members of council. It is little short of scandalous that an office which each year is becoming more important, owing to the increasing number of appointments held by Professor Dunstan, should be delegated to any one who may be fortunate enough to hold a certain position in the Research laboratory. The relation of the two posts is most remote and an excellent analytical assistant might be an utter failure behind the lecture table. The students settle the matter to their own satisfaction, frequently, by staying away from the lectures. But it is high time that more attention should be paid to the qualification neces-

sary for even subordinate posts in the staff of the official school of pharmacy.

Messrs. Richardson & Co., of Leicester, have fitted up all the requisite machinery to enable them to do their own drug grinding. This is an important and necessary step for all wholesale druggists, as depending upon drug millers is very unsatisfactory. There was a time, it has been stated on the authority of the late Professor Redwood, when a druggist would send a case of rhubarb to the mill and instruct them to grind case and all! This is probably overdrawn, but in any work of outside manipulation some uncertainty is introduced, and, where it is performed under the supervision of the firm, it is probably more carefully and satisfactorily carried on. Since the light disintegrators have become popular and cheap, a good deal of the coarse grinding is superseded. Gentian is very well reduced by a disintegrator, and numerous other drugs are coarsely ground by means of these machines. As an instance of provincial enterprise, I mention the improvements inaugurated by Messrs. Richardson, as some imagine that only the wholesale houses in the capital can do these things properly. I understand Messrs. Richardson hold the contract for the supply of drugs, etc., for the Royal Navy, whilst for many years their name has figured in all the large contracts where pills are consumed. In accordance with a fashion greatly spreading amongst the wholesale houses, Messrs. Richardson's business was, a few years ago, converted into a limited liability company, but all the shares remain in the family.

Enlarged Faculty of the School of Pharmacy of Northwestern University, Chicago.

Illinois College of Pharmacy, Chicago, has added to its faculty two strong men of national reputation—Mr. Henry Kraemer, well known to the pharmacists of this country as the Reporter on Progress of Pharmacy of the American Pharmaceutical Association, and Mr. Jan B. Nagelvoort, whose name is familiar to the readers of current pharmaceutical and chemical literature. These gentlemen are both apothecaries, and distinguished for their ability and their active participation in the scientific work of their profession.

Mr. Kraemer, after graduating from Girard College, Philadelphia, entered the drug store of Dr. C. B. Lowe, of that city, who was Prof. Maasch's assistant in the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. He served an apprenticeship in pharmacy extending over five years, and, when he graduated at the college just named, he was awarded the Lee prize and the Maasch Microscope prize. For two years he was assistant to Prof. Sadler, University of Pennsylvania. Then he was called to the New York College of Pharmacy to teach botany, materia medica, and pharmacognosy, but he resigned his position after