

in stock, and they sell a good quantity. There is no poison law here. Profits look large, but expenses are high. The bulk of our goods are subject to 8 per cent. duty *ad valorem*, and some are charged special duty. On opium, for instance, we have to pay \$4=16s. 8d. per lb. Then there are the heavy freight and the shipping charges to add. The assistant who comes out here need not expect an easy time of it. We open shop at 6 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. It is too hot here to have dinner in the middle of the day, so we leave it till about 7 o'clock.

Of course, as at home, we have our funny orders—e.g., "A pennyworth of stamps, and please to wrap it up in a piece of paper." (We have a licence to sell stamps and get 5 per cent. commission). "A gill rose-water and plenty almond drops in it." The darkies believe in big doses. They think nothing of taking 4 oz. of castor oil right off.

Drugs do not keep extra well here. Insects get amongst them, and ants especially are a great nuisance. They are very fond of sugar, and you cannot dispense syrup without getting the ants crawling all over your hand. Mixed powders and "pulv. pro pil." invariably go into hard lumps, which are very difficult to get out of the bottle. Then when a bottle of liq. ammon. fort is required, we have to be very careful, as it begins to boil as soon as the stopper is loosened. The coinage here is very mixed. We have five-dollar notes=20s. 10d. Two-guilder pieces=2s. 8d. are rare now; but guilders and half-guilders are plentiful. Then we have four-penny pieces or "bits" as they are called here. A "gill" is a penny, and half-a-bit equals twopence. Then, of course, we have the current British coins. A sovereign sells here for five dollars, so that it will pay anyone who comes here bring a good quantity of sovereigns with him. In conclusion let me say that I always look forward to the coming of the mails with THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST. We have a mail once a fortnight from home. Trusting I have interested at least a few of my professional brethren, I am,

FERRUM.

P.S.—The following is an order received on the day after writing the above:—

June 8th, 1894.
Respected and dear Sir having to call your attention hastily to my deficiency of those articles which my shop is deficient off. Kindly post at once Saturday morning mail sharp that I may have in hand I am awaiting for the parcel on Saturday express at the hour of ten o'clock morning mail I am well knowing that I have erected my own Building stocked with Medicines and publicly open having a licensed infull power by law. therefore I request that I only open last month infull and having no other creditor or being in-debted to anyone therefore I would patronize you apothecaries shop and deem it necessary you also that my confidence is strongly placed on you only for a short time to do a crediting favor with me and every

Monday mail you will surely get your money by post or if you like write doctor—to receive it from me or what you would prefer including with parcel at once I have enclosed here-in postage 8c. for the parcel payment by mail that you may give for me to receive parcel at once kindly everything properly packed quite safe. I am your obdt. and truthful

[Name of party] Dispenser etc Druggist etc.

Kindly sir if you detain from sending those medicines kindly send the 1 bot. Edwards harling hair restorer 32c. 1 ounce glass 24 c. for herein my letter to you these two is paid for your 56. cents in this letter. if you oblige me as I expects I am assure to post balance on Monday forenoon mail express [Name again] Druggists shop.

I turuly sorry just as I go to post off before I understand that you have to post it to — post office

Kindly am looking out for my parcel to-morrow

[Name again]

Kindly send 8c. Iodid of Potas. [Then follows an order]

Total amount \$5.80 56 cents paid cash balc \$5.24

Kindly send me all sorts of you new and old niagazines books consisting of Medicine. [Name and address again.]

—Chemist and Druggist.

THE SOLUBILITY OF CREAM OF TARTAR IN ALCOHOL.

BY J. A. ROELOFSEN.

Alcohol of 93 per cent. by weight was mixed with various amounts of a saturated solution of cream of tartar, previously purified, to make liquids of different strengths. Lots containing 90, 80, 70, 60, 50, 40, 30, 20, 10 and 0 per cent. of alcohol respectively were made, and small bottles holding about 125 cc. filled with them. These were tightly corked and exposed for a number of hours, in no case less than six, to the following temperatures: 0°, 50, 100, 150 20°, 25°, 30°, 35°, 40°, 45°, 50° C. The bottles were frequently shaken. It was found necessary in the case of the weaker alcohols at the higher temperatures, to add some cream of tartar so as to maintain an excess and prevent supersaturation; for, except in the stronger alcohols, it was found that the amount thrown down from solution on addition of the alcohol was not sufficient to saturate the liquids at the higher temperatures.

For each determination 50 cc. were used, and this amount was drawn up in a pipette to the lower end of which was attached by means of rubber tubing a piece of glass tube 10 cm. long and 6mm. in diameter, tightly packed with cotton-wool. In this way undissolved particles were kept from being drawn up. In a few cases it was very difficult to obtain perfectly clear solutions. The bottles subjected to the higher temperatures were packed in cotton after being taken from the hot air chamber, to prevent loss of heat by radiation during the taking of samples, and observation of the temperature of the remainder of the liquid after the samples were taken showed no appreciable loss of heat. The samples were put into beakers, diluted with water, and de-