will it not be of greater value to the latter?

A well-known apothecary of Philadelphia, who has suffered since a lad from an injury to one of his legs, claims that in all those years he has never been absolutely free from pain until he took to riding a bicycle.

A prominent clergyman of the same city, who is quite a student, says "that the more he studies the more he has to ride to equalize matters," and further says, "who would for a moment ride in a carriage if possible to ride on a wheel?"

Some advice may be of value, especially to beginners.

Don't let your bump of self-esteem outgrow your bump of caution.

A clerk of mine learned to ride fairly well in one afternoon; on his second trip he did so well that he thought every one was looking at him, but, having to pass a wagon that provokingly kept in the middle of the road, he got nervous, wabbled ran into the hind wheel, took a header, cut his leg to the bone, and was laid up for repairs for three weeks.

Don't overdo it, especially at the start; you will hear so much about century runs that you will be tempted to ride further than your strength will allow, and so will become exhausted instead of invigorated. Unless a daily rider, 15 to 25 miles of an afternoon will be amply sufficient.—*Amer. Jl. Pharmacy.*

Solution Zinc Chloride.

H. E. D. BESTHORN, PH. G.

Read at a Meeting of the California Pharmaceutical Society.

Solution of zinc chloride, although not an important pharmacopœial preparation, yet when made according to the process given in the Pharmacopœia, gives considerable trouble with danger of fracturing the vessel, the latter especially, when making it in large quantities.

The principal trouble and risk of fracturing the vessel arises when the iron present in the solution is to be removed, which necessitates the addition of nitric acid to oxidize the ferrous chloride by evaporating the solution to dryness and heating the dry mass to fusion.

I had occasion to prepare a large lot of the solution of zinc chloride, and to do away with the evaporation and the heating of the dry mass to fusion, it occurred to me, why not try solution of hydrogen peroxide instead of nitric acid as the oxidizing agent? As the amount of iron is small, it would require but very little, besides it does not give off disagreeable by-products, and could be made in the store with out any objection.

To those that make the solution from the salt, I will say that by following the directions given below it requires very little more trouble, and could be made considerably cheaper.

The following formula will make the pharmacopœial quantity:

Zinc	240 gm.
Hydrochloric acid	840 gm.
Solution hydrogen peroxide	20 C.C.
Zinc carbonate prec	16 gm.
Distilled water, a sufficient quantity.	

To the zinc, contained in a glass or porcelain vessel, add, gradually, the hydrochloric acid. When the solution is cold, strain, add the solution of hydrogen peroxide, let stand several hours, then add the zinc carbonate and heat on a water bath about half an hour, then add sufficient distilled water to make the product weigh one thousand grammes (1000 gms.), set it aside for twenty-four hours and filter through white paper.

Drescher recommended peroxide of hydrogen instead of nitric acid in making solution of ferric chloride, but the amount necessary would be objectionable on account of its cost.

Beech Tar and Pine Tar Their Differentiation.

It is frequently very essential to know for a certainty the sources of tar used in pharmacy. The subject has been investigated by Hirschsohn, who recommends the following process for the differentiation of beech tar and fir tar: At 20° C. (68° F.), beech tar has a specific gravity of 0.925-0.945; while pine (fir) tar, at the same temperature, is 1.02 to 1.05, the one floating in water, while the other will sink if entirely freed of air. Beech tar, agitated with 10 volumes of water, abandons none of its coloring matter, though the water, while remaining perfectly colorless, acquires a markedly acid reaction. The addition of perchloride of iron to the water produces a green color reaction. If 2 drops of anilin and 4 drops of hydrochloric acid be added to 5 ccm. of the water, a yellow color reaction results. If 1 volume of beech tar be agitated with 20 volumes of petroleum ether and filtered, a clear, brownish yellow liquid is obtained, which does not become green when agitated with a diluted solution of copper acetate.

The aqueous extract of fir tar is, on the contrary, colored a marked yellow, if of acid reaction, but becomes red on the addition of $Fe Cl_6$ (instead of green). Treated with anilin and HCl, the color passes to red. The petroleum solution, agitated with copper, becomes green. Finally, when pine (fir) tar and alcohol are agitated together, the former takes up no color. If there is any muddiness, or even cloudiness, you may be certain that the tar is contaminated with beech tar, kerosene products, coal tar, etc.—*Nat. Druggist.*

Oleocreosote.

This is a new non-toxic, anti-phthisic remedy, and is obtained by combining creosote with oleic acid. In this way an oleic ether of creosote is formed.

This compound is a yellowish oily substance, containing 33 per cent. of creosote (or guaiaco), having a characteristic flavor, reminding one of creosote, but having no caustic action on the tongue. It is insoluble in water, and only slightly soluble in alcohol, but dissolves in ether, chloroform, etc., and in fatty oils.

Numerous experiments on rats, rabbits, etc, lead to the conclusion that oleocreosote can be tolerated in larger doses than creosote simply dissolved in oil, the toxic properties of oleocreosote being so much less intense than those of creosote dissolved in oil. Injected under the skin, or given by the mouth, it is decomposed in the system and is eliminated by the kidneys, creosote soon appearing in the urine. —*Medical Summary.*

Iceland Moss Two New Preparations.

Oefele gives the following formulæ for the preparation of Iceland moss, which is again coming into repute in the treatment of phthisis, anæmia, and other wasting diseases:

INFUSION OF ICELAND MOSS.

Iceland moss	20 parts.
Ammonium carbonate	1 part.
Boiling water	200 parts

Mix and macerate for thirty minutes, then bring to a boil, strain, and to the colute add 70 parts of absolute alcohol. Let stand until settled, then decant and add to the clear liquid 30 parts of liquorice juice. The dose is from one to two tablespoonfuls thrice daily.

TINCTURE OF ICELAND MOSS.

Iceland moss	20 parts.
Ammonium carbonate	1 part.
Absolute alcohol	100 parts.

Mix and macerate for twenty-four hours, then bring to the point of ebullition, strain while hot, let stand until cold, and finally filter, Dose, 1-2 teaspoonfuls thrice daily.—*National Druggist.*

New.

The centre support is a simple device *put in the bottom of every Tanglefoot* Holder. It is a simple mechanism, calculated to raise and support the centre of fly paper in the holder. A sheet thus raised will catch flies much faster than if it lies flat. The support can be lowered readily when desired to place the holders in piles.

Ten holders are placed in every case (one in each box) and are intended for presenting with every first liberal sale of Tanglefoot from the box.

Every time you sell a case of Tanglefoot you have an opportunity to please ten customers by giving them gratis just what they care for when buying fly paper. The careful dealer takes advantage of this.

The holders are protected by letters patent.

Dr. Bartholow recommends five to fifteen drops of spirits of camphor for hysterical flatulence, and for flatulent colic occurring at the change of life.