

## Pharmacy Abroad.

### THE NEW NORWEGIAN PHARMACOPŒIA.

—The third edition of the Norwegian Pharmacopœia is now published, and is official. It is partly in Latin, partly in Norwegian, and in some respects resembles the last Russian Pharmacopœia. The nomenclature and composition of compound remedies are in Latin, whilst the description of single drugs, tests, and preparation of compound galenicals are in Norwegian. As set forth in the preface, 110 old official preparations have been expunged and 89 new ones introduced. Many and important alterations in nomenclature have taken place, more even than in the last Danish and Swiss Pharmacopœias. Both valerian and rhubarb appear as rhizomes. — *British and Colonial Druggist*.

THE GERMAN PHARMACOPŒIA.—In the supplement of the German Pharmacopœia just appearing, the following new medicaments are included: Camphoric acid, hydrobromic acid, cresolated water, basic salicylate of bismuth, bougies, benzoate of soda and caffeine, cresol, formaldehyde solution, solution of cresol "soap," salicylate of lithium, mercuric chloride pastilles, creasote pills, salicylate of soda, and theobromine, tincture of aloes, and cantharides ointment for veterinary use. — *Journal der Pharmacie d'Amers*.

THE DRUG TRADE IN THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.—M. G. de Berard, French consul at Manila, in the Philippine Islands, reports that the importation of chemicals, pharmaceutical products, and perfumery in his district in the course of 1893 exceeded that of 1892 by about 15 per cent. in value. This increased importation marks a partial return of the prosperity enjoyed by the pharmaceutical trade some years ago. The last increase in the customs tariff of the islands, however, which specially affected the articles named, has considerably injured the business in high-class British and French goods, and assisted the development of the trade in spurious imitations. In 1893 Spain supplied 398 tons, France 36 tons, Britain 1,127 tons, China 3,083, Germany 188, Japan 479, Belgium 12, Singapore 110, and the United States 35 tons of chemicals and pharmaceutical goods. There has been a great increase in the imports from Germany, due, says the consul, to the deliberate imitation, in that country, of British and French goods of high repute. Perfumery is in great demand. — *Chemist and Druggist*.

PHARMACY IN JAMAICA.—In a letter to the *Chemist and Druggist*, Mr. Albert J. Salmon, Apothecaries Hall, Montego Bay, Jamaica, gives the following interesting notes regarding the practice of medicine and pharmacy in Jamaica:

"There are several fine pharmacies ('doctors' shops') in Jamaica, many of them fitted up in the European and American styles, especially those in Kingston. The majority of those in the country are miniature emporiums, as nearly every conceivable article is sold, so as to make up a living turnover. Prior to 1881 there was no pharmacy law, consequently any one could keep open shop for the sale and compounding of drugs and poisons; and the writer remembers one of these shops, in a populous district of Kingston, carried on by a pretended disciple of Galen, who was just able to sign his name.

In 1881 the "Drugs and Poisons Law" was enacted, which compelled all persons to obtain by examination a license before they could keep open shop for the sale of drugs and poisons, but no curriculum was enforced, except in the case of apprentices at the public hospital, who were required to undergo three full years' tuition at its dispensing school before presenting themselves for examination.

A new law was enacted last year repealing that of 1881 and its amendment of 1885, and the new Act requires a curriculum of two years, and the second year at least must be under a medical practitioner, or one already licensed. Candidates must be twenty-one years of age, and must pay a fee of £2. Persons licensed under the Pharmacy Acts of Great Britain and Ireland are exempt from examination, but must produce certificates of qualification, and pay a fee of £2. In the case of any one requiring a special examination a fee of £5 is demanded. Licensed druggists of other countries are allowed an examination, provided the superintending medical officer is satisfied with the certificates of their curriculum. Any one licensed under the law is, in case of any conviction as a misdemeanant, liable to have his license suspended by the superintending medical officer on the approval of the governor.

Patent medicines are in great demand, and American and Canadian proprietary medicines are fast becoming the leading ones—such as Scott's Emulsion of Cod-liver Oil, Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, Pills and Sarsaparilla, Bristol's Sarsaparilla, Northrop & Lyman's Vegetable Discovery and Canadian Healing Oil, Perry Davis' Pain Killer, Morse's Indian Root Pills, Ross' Life Pills, American Specific, etc.—simply from the fact that these firms "work up" the country by means of their travelling agents and advertisements.

Druggists, as a rule, do very little dispensing, as the majority of doctors supply their own medicines. A feeling of strong antipathy exists among a large number of the doctors and druggists, on account of the latter carrying on a prescribing business. Druggists are frequently called "doctors," and this seems to be the cause of the bitter feeling on the part of the regular practitioners. The origin of the appellation "doctor" for a druggist is not generally known, but it arose in this way. During the days of slavery, there was

scarcely any system of skilled medical aid provided for the slaves; but there was always at hand some intelligent man who was able to administer medicines to the sufferers, practising a recognized empiricism. These persons were styled "hothouse doctors," and were looked upon by the slaves as great benefactors. The poor creatures not being placed in a position to know the difference between a qualified and an unqualified man got to know no one else but these "doctors," consequently the name has been handed down as a manner of addressing any one who is publicly recognized as having anything to do with preparing or prescribing medicines. And so it will continue, unless the present generation at school are taught to address druggists differently.

### Plastic Gelatins.

Under this name M. Dané, chemist and pharmacist at Valence-d'Agen, designates (*Union Pharmaceutique*) a series of magistral preparations, easy to prepare, intended as the excipient of exceedingly active remedies (or others, if desired). The base is gelatin, glycerin, and water, proportioned as follows:

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|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Gelatin (in colorless leaves)... | 15 parts. |
| Glycerin (30°) .....             | 50 parts. |
| Distilled water.....             | 60 parts. |

Melt together in the water bath, and before the mass sets add the medicinal agent in the dose desired, then pour out on the slab or in moulds.

*Ovules*.—You can use for this purpose either oiled ovular moulds or eyelets. In the latter case all that is necessary is to moisten one side of each moulded half with gelatin, dissolved in water, and unite the two. Ovules are, however, not a good form for commercial purposes, or where medicaments are put up in quantity. They dry too easily, or alter otherwise.

For suppositories the process is the same. The author also prepares other forms—buttons, medicated nipple covers for chapped and sore nipples, etc., and finally he uses sheets of the mass poured out on oiled slabs, in the place of cloths, for spreading plasters on, or as plasters where a simple emollient is wanted. Where a medicated plaster is desired the medicament—morphine, iodoform, etc.—is sprinkled or spread on the surface, the latter being first slightly warmed. — *National Druggist*.

### Northwest Territories' Pharmaceutical Association.

The result of the election for the Council of the Pharmaceutical Association of the N.W.T., held in Regina, March 20th, was as follows: W. G. Pettingall, Regina; Robert Martin, Regina; W. W. Bole, Moose Jaw; J. G. Templeton, Calgary; A. D. Ferguson, Wolseley.

A small store well-handled may not pay big but it pays sure.