

pills too well. Coated pills, in spite of the fact of their being daily swallowed by the hundred-weight, are not recognised in the pharmacopœia. A standard should therefore be devised by the authorities above mentioned. It should be stated that coated pills should break up completely within an hour when kept in water at 100° F. It is often found that the pearl coating falls off in a few minutes unless very thick, but that a long time elapses before the pill disintegrates.

This is due to the varnish used before coating the pills with French chalk. Many attempts have been made to do away with this insoluble varnish but without avail: A pill containing a considerable amount of volatile oil or oily extract—vermifuge pills of extract of male fern are especially troublesome—requires sometimes two or three coats of varnish, or the oil will inevitably ooze out after a time, and discolor the pearl coating. A good idea is to coat pills which contain oils, such as rhubarb, with a yellow tinted coating. By this means if the oil comes through very little further discoloration takes place.

The green extracts of belladonna, henbane, etc., are very much increased in value owing to the severe winter having destroyed a large portion of the crop. The greatest sufferers are stated to be the elaterium plants, next belladonna and then henbane. Some idea of the damage may be understood from the fact that Messrs. Ransom & Son, of Hitchin, Herts., tell me that their crop even of henbane is only one-third of the usual. The demand for juices of the green herbs maintains a steady level, but of recent years each of the green extracts has been more enquired after, except aconite. Perhaps when the Research Laboratory of the Pharmaceutical Society have finished with their aconite and aconitine investigation we may have a standardised preparation which will in all probability give more satisfaction. The subject of standardisation of pharmacopœial drugs and preparations is a burning one and the action of the committee engaged on the New American Pharmacopœia is awaited with interest.

FORMULÆ.

Tincture of Podophyllin, Soluble.—Podophyllin resin 160 grs., solution of potash 4 drachms, rectified spirit 10 fluid ozs., distilled water 10 fluid ozs. Macerate two days with frequent agitation and filter. Is perfectly miscible with water and alkalies, but not with acids.

Essence of Rennet.—Fresh rennet, minced small, 12 ozs.; common salt 3 ozs.; mix together and allow to stand for 2 or 3 weeks in a cool place, then add water 18 fluid ozs., proof spirit 2 fluid ozs. Macerate for 1 day and filter.

Glycerine and Cucumber.—Cucumber pomade 8 ozs., powdered white Castile soap 1½ ozs., rub together in a mortar and add borax powder 1 oz. dissolved in 4 pints of water, and glycerine 10 fluid ozs. Perfume with otto and essential oils of almond and lemon. Should be allowed to

stand 24 hours and poured off any separating portion.

Sanitary Rose Face Powder.—Finely powdered starch 4 lbs., powdered borie acid 1 lb., rose pink ½ oz., otto of rose 2 drms.

Codleia Jelly.—Best gelatine 12 ozs., water 40 fluid ozs., glycerine 40 fluid ozs., codeia 144 grs., citric acid 3 ozs., tincture of lemons 5 fluid ozs. Dissolve the gelatine in the water by heat and add the glycerine; and codeia dissolved in tincture. If a brilliant preparation is required the gelatine solution should be clarified by white of egg.

Petroleum Hair Restorer.—Rectified petroleum 1 pint, olive oil 1 pint, essence of bergamot 4 drms, oil of myrrane 4 drms. Mix.

Invalid's Disinfectant.—Sea salt, powdered, 2 ozs.; iodine 2 drms, iodide of potash, 1 drin., bromine 2 drops, fluid extract of fucus 1 drin., sawdust 1 oz. Mix together and put up in bottles with perforated box-wood tops.

Letter from Norway.

Special to the CANADIAN DRUGGIST.

NORWEGIAN COD-LIVER OIL.

THE fishing in all districts in Norway is now over for this season, and below I give you the total figures for the whole of Norway for 1892, of medicinal cod liver oil produced, and of liver available for other oils:

	Liver.	Cod Liver Oil
Soendmoere	4,600	1,200
Nordmoere	7,737	5,300
Vesteraalen	14,400	2,827
Tromsøe, Senjen, etc. . .	1,000	1,440
Finnmarken	44,398	3,899
Lofoten	23,000	8,100
Total in Hectoliters* . .	95,135	22,766

The quantity of medicinal Cod Liver Oil is fully 1600 hectoliters below that of last year, and 2800 below the average of the last 4 years. But in reality the quantity of *really good* Cod Liver Oil this year is some 4000 to 5000 hectoliters below the average, because a great deal of the Finnmarkin oil has turned out very inferior in quality. Present quotation may be said to be 70s sterling per barrel, i. e. wholesale, *cif* Montreal. Last year the lowest prices touched were 68s to 70s, but at the close of the Finnmarkin fishing in June price rose to 75s and 80s, and sales were even made at 85s. The present low price is therefore quite unwarrantable and an improvement must take place, if not now, at any rate as soon as the autumn demand will make itself felt.

JOH. RYE HOLMBOE.

Tromsøe, Norway, June 16th, 1892.

THE largest telephone switchboard in the world is that in the Exchange at Berlin, Germany, where 7,000 wires are connected with the main office.

* 100 Hectoliters are equal to 80 barrels, or about 9 tons.

Pharmaceutical Notes from South America.

A correspondent who has lately returned from Buenos Ayres, after a residence of over four years, sends us the following notes on pharmacy in Argentina:

In Buenos Ayres there are no less than 182 *boticas* and *farmacias*, (chemists—druggists). Most of them are kept by Italians, Spaniards and Frenchmen; there are half a dozen kept by both English and German. Most of them “make huy while the sun shines,” during the “silly” season, which lasts between December to March, when fever is at its highest point in Brazil, and it behooves her neighbors to be aware of “yellow Jack.”

The population of Argentina's capital and port does not amount to 500,000; the second city, Rosario, has from 50,000 to 60,000 inhabitants. The whole Republic, with its 14 provinces, cannot count on five million inhabitants.

The wages of pharmacists' assistants from 150 dols. to 230 dols. per month, according to ability. But it must be borne in mind that it takes generally 17 dols. to the sovereign, and sometimes more, according to the state of exchange, which changes twice a day, at 12 noon and 3 p.m.

Most foreign drugs are imported from France, Italy and Germany, and other parts of the Continent, or from Africa and Asia. Those indigenous to the country necessitate culture and development before much good can be expected out of them.

Medicinal plants in the South American Republics are abundant, especially in Peru; they are as yet, it may be said, practically unknown to any but the aboriginal Indians. *Apropos* on the subject of medicinal plants in Peru, a very interesting work was handed to the writer by the author, Senor Federico Benelishé, of Cable Florida, 163, Buenos Ayres. It is called “Forty Anos de Observaciones Sobre la Naturaleza y el Hombre” (Forty Years of Observations upon Man and Nature); and contains entertaining data upon the medicinal herbs, &c., to be found in the interior of Peru and the cures they effect in syphilitic diseases, formerly known to and practiced by the Peruvian Indians, and now for the first time by Mr. Benelishé, who has also presented to your correspondent his cure, which he makes personally for rheumatism, and that he has cured many of that malady entirely. Another useful volume has just appeared, by the same author, called “La mineria Actual en la Republica, Argentina” (the actual mining in the Argentine Republic), which also is very interesting not only to miners and others, but to the naturalist and botanist. This last named work contains notes on the life of the author, who is a native of Gibraltar, though having spent some 60 years of his life in South America entitles him to be a *Sud Americano*.—*British and Colonial Druggist*.

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