Inhaler, Thomas N. Barnes, Weston, W. Va.

Making ethereal salts of formic acid, Auguste Behal, Paris, France.

Making acetone, Harry O. Chute, Deseronto, Canada.

Atomizer, Allen de Vilbiss, Toledo, Ohio.

X ray apparatus, Reginald A. Fessenden, Allegheny Pa.

Apparatus for producing ozone by electricity, Joshua H. Lamprey, London, England.

Wafer capsule, Karl Morstadt, Prague, Austria-Hungary.

Electrical apparatus for surgeons' use, Henry Schlesinger, New York.

Copies of above patents may be obtained for ten cents each by addressing John A. Saul, Solicitor of Patents, Fendall Building, Washington, D.C.

LABELS.

"Wilkinson's Febro-Quinine" for medical tablets, Howard M. Wilkinson, Denver, Col.

"Chocolate Cathartics," for a candy cathartic, Thomas H. Mitchell, Washington, Ind.

"Red Cross Pile cure," for a medicine, W. D. Rea, Louisville, Ky.

An Item of Therapeutic Faith.

By Gifford Knox, Westfield, N.J.

What are the results from using *green-drug* extracts and tinctures? Uniform success.

What are the results from using dry-drug tinctures and extracts? Sometimes success, sometimes failure.

These two questions and their answers are among the most interesting in the whole range of iamatological research. I have devoted nineteen years to the work of a therapeutist, and if there is one thing more than another that has been vexatious, it has been the experience with the lack of uniformity in the action of dry-drug preparations. I will state frankly that I would not dare and will not presume to go before a class with dry-drug preparations. The embarrassment of a gray-haired professor of materia medica and therapeutics in the class-room is anything but refreshing as after carefully explaining the physiological action of a drug, he performs the necessary experiment, and is met by absolute failure. I have been there, and I am emphatic in protesting against reliance on the dry-drug preparations. Under the circumstances—and such circumstances—the clinical proofs are unmentionable.

If we ask each other what we expect of a tincture or fluid extract, there is but one answer—and every student knows it. The answer is that there shall be present as much of the active principle as possible and as little of the inert matter as possible. The proximate principles are of secondary importance. We recognize them—the gum, sugar, salts, starch, coloring matter—but our logical preference is for the active principle.

Solution has no standing in comparison with expression. I want and expect that a minim of fluid extract shall represent not more than a grain of the crude drug, and that that grain shall carry the physiological action of a known active principle. It is not that I merely anticipate an action. I expect it, and I demand it. I am not satisfied without it, and the satisfaction and expectation have to deal with something definite, something that is provable in the class-room, and is to be demonstrated at the bedside.

I want the concentrated, definite medicinal constituents and I cannot obtain them from dry drug preparations. Why should I make a slave of myself and be obliged to test each bottle to ascertain the dose? And I must do that with the average dry-drug preparations if I am to be honest with myself and my patients. I want to depend on my medicine. If I know that a drug will accomplish a certain thing by virtue of an active principle that I take pride in isolating I want to feel sure that that principle is represented at its best in my fluid extract or tincture. It is a di-grace to our profession to hope so, or guess so. Ours should be an exact profession. It is exact in other ways and why not in this? And, with dry drug preparations it is inexact. If you please, it can hardly be otherwise.

But what about green-drug preparations? I have found, in pressing the question, that there are practitioners, both in this country and abroad, who have some of the strangest and most peculiar ideas about what the term actually means. I have asked the question repeatedly,—"'Green-drug' preparations? What are they? How are they made?" And a majority of those who answered stated that they "should think" a green-drug preparation was made by adding alcohol to the expressed juice of green plants or roots. I have sometimes gone further and endeavored to obtain a more exact idea; and have been gravely told that "in the first place the plant (roots, leaves etc.) should have the juice expressed; then it should stand for say twenty-four hours and after that alcohol should be added, with filtration ensuing." And how much alcohol? "O, perhaps one part by measure to four or five of the juice." But—I go on to inquire,—how would you prepare a preserved vegetable juice? and "I suppose it amounts to about the same thing" is the answer. And, let me add, it is a fact there are so-called "green-drug" preparations on the market that do come up to this description and definition and are nothing, more or less, than vegetable juices in alcohol, in some proportion or other.

The manufacturers and promoters of such goods ask, somewhat defiantly, "But what of it? What do you want—the active principles?" Yea, verily. Take as an example, the eucalyptol from Australia, best known as the Sander eucalyptol. This is no "preserved juice," no crude solution. It is indeed the active principle, from the green leaves, and extracted from them right where they grow. We know eucalyptol to have a certain action, and here it is in this preparation: a certain therapy, and here it is. The eucalyptus leaves are like those of the gelsemium in the respect that in the process of drying the alkaloid disappears. Who can doubt that altogether too many of the fluid extracts and tinctures of the shops are very crude pharmaceutical preparations; and why—simply because they are prepared from the dried drugs, laden with inert materials. For physiological and therapeutical sufficiency, and for perfection in product, the green-drug preparations are always honest.

Cleansing Compound.

Charles E. Postlethwaite, of Bromley, Eng., has taken out a patent for a compound for cleansing painted, varnished or polished surfaces, carpets, rugs, oilcloth, brasswork, and the like. This compound is produced by mixing the following ingredients in the proportions stated:

Oxalate of ammonium	8 ozs.
Boracic acid	8 ozs.
Glycerine	58½ ozs.
Water	1 gal.

"Not in the Trust" is a popular slogan just now. Right or wrong, the people have a deep-seated distrust of trusts.

Get away from business occasionally. It is cheaper to take a voluntary vacation than to wait till the doctor orders it.