Unshelled oysters have for the last two or three years been supplied in waterproof paper bags by the retail dealers located in some of our cities, and it is this fact which has directed my attention to the subject, and led to the inquiry whether such receptacles, or those of similar material, might not be employed for holding or conveying many of the drugs and pharmaceutical preparations which are now contained in more expensive, fragile, cumbersome, and weighty receptacles. For articles of semi-fluid or pilular consistence, as extracts, confections, honeys, ointments, and such like, which are usually put in pots, impervious paper boxes might, I think, be employed with advantage. Some extracts, as that of coloc. co., become, in time, very hard, and often they can only be removed by breaking the vessel; almost always the edges of the covered pots generally used are chipped and fractured so that they are no longer presentable. In such cases paper boxes might be made to answer well, as the edges could be cut down as the extract is removed; and, should the extract be very hard, it could be broken up by a smart blow on the side of the box. The great recommendation of such boxes would be their cheapness, as their cost would be but a fraction of that of earthenware, and, once used, they might be destroyed.

Boxes constructed of pasteboard, in the manner in which pill boxes are usually made, might be rendered tight at the joints, and otherwise impermeable, by being dipped into a suitable composition; but the seamless boxes which are made on moulds, and are now common enough, would be much more suitable.

Alkaline and deliquescent chemicals, and even caustic potash and soda, might be put in boxes prepared by paraffin, and there are many other purposes to which these boxes or bags might be applied, but as the design of this paper is merely to draw attention to this suggestion they need not now be enumerated.

For a composition to prevent the passage of aqueous liquids paraffin would answer well, and an alcoholic solution of shellac or other resin might also be employed. A dip in sulphuric acid of the proper degree of strength, as in the manner of making vegetable parchment, would much strengthen the boxes, and would also to a great extent close the pores of the paper. Amongst other compositions which might be noticed, I would mention silicate of calcium,