

fit, but rather to call attention to some of the many classes of work in which the use of the microscope is absolutely necessary and in which the pharmacist can do the work.

A short time ago I noticed in a pharmaceutical journal the advertisement of a prominent firm of manufacturing chemists who have recently embarked in the retail business. In this advertisement the announcement is made that they are prepared to do microscopical work for physicians, and then follows a list of prices charged, followed by the announcement that a liberal commission will be allowed to pharmacists for sending them this class of work. This advertisement is just in line with my own ideas, and I have no objections to make against it; on the contrary, I believe that such a course could be followed by many a pharmacist with profit. As remarked above, the microscope has become absolutely necessary in the intelligent treatment of some diseases, although it is a fact that but few physicians have a microscope, and of the number that have, not all are by any means proficient in its manipulation and use.

Not long since a physician told me of a case under his care that he almost was positive was cancerous; but on having a microscopical examination made, he found that the growth was not malignant. This instance I only mention to show the value of such work. By equipping himself to do this work, the pharmacist places himself in such position that he becomes a valuable aid to the physician in his practice, and in this way gains the confidence of the physician, and adds to his own reputation as a professional man. The examination of sputum in cases of suspected tuberculosis is not resorted to one-tenth as often as the importance of such examinations demands, and this mainly because the physician is not so situated that he can do the work himself, and no person is handy who can do the work. Thus a very valuable part in the diagnosis of tubercular troubles is neglected. In the examination of urinary deposits, the microscope again is indispensable, and in the examination of tumors it is very valuable. Thus I might go on and enumerate, but it is unnecessary.

I believe that this is a field of investigation that is peculiarly inviting to the pharmacist, and one in which he can make both reputation and profit without having to neglect the business part of pharmacy. Nor is it alone in examinations of this kind that he can use the microscope advantageously. Not long ago a friend made an examination of the water supply of a certain city. This examination showed that there was an excess of some of the impurities usually found in water over the limits set by the board of health of the State in which the city was located, but the excess was so small that he hesitated to condemn the water. A microscopical examination, however, revealed the presence of bacilli coli, thus proving the water to be contaminated

with sewage. The chemical analysis showed the presence of a slight excess of nitrogenous matter, but it remained for the microscope to show the source of the contamination. Last year the writer was asked by a manufacturer of ice to examine his product, saying that a chemist had analyzed it, and reported that there was a considerable amount of solids in the water, and that the loss by ignition was such as to make a bad showing for the ice, although he was using nothing but distilled water in its manufacture. A microscopical examination proved the solid matter to be fibers from the paper employed in filtering the water. The water, after being distilled, was being passed through a filter of several thicknesses of blotting paper, this accounting for the solids in the water from the melted ice.

It requires no argument to convince any one of the value of microscopical investigation, and year after year new fields are opening up for this class of work where before the microscope was not thought of. — *Western Druggist*.

Improved Syrup of Eriodictyon as a Quinine Disguiser.*

BY AMBROSE MUELLER, PH. G., OLD ORCHARD.

The query, how to disguise the bitter taste of quinine by a neutral vehicle, has received considerable attention. Nearly every pharmacist has at some time or another prepared trials, and as far as I know not reaped the success of having something which will entirely overcome this objectionable taste. Syrup of Eriodictyon, prepared in accordance with the National Formulary, is open to criticisms and has received considerable comment.

The first objection seems to be that the quinine sulphate is more or less decomposed and thrown down to the bottom of the vial as an almost unseparable deposit. The second objection seems to be the presence of potassa solution to which physicians object most emphatically.

The substitution of sodium or potassium bicarbonates or carbonates for potassa solution is very objectionable, because of the nauseating effect it produced in most cases in which this syrup was tried. Having had my attention called to this, I at once set to work and substituted a calcid salt, namely, magnesium carbonate, which answers the purpose most excellently and thus affording a perfectly neutral preparation. The preparation I now present is the aforementioned product modified with the addition of saccharin solution, and which the physicians in our vicinity use in their daily practice.

The formula is of the following composition:

Fld. Extr. Eriodictyon.....	f. grams ss.
Comp. Tinct. of Cardamon.....	f. grams i.
Oil of Cloves	gtt. xv.
Oil of Lemon.....	gtt. xii.

*Proceedings Missouri Phar. Assoc.

Oil of Sassafras	gtt. x.
Alcohol	f. ozs. ii.
Magnesium carbonate.....	ozs. ii.
Sugar	tray ozs. xiv.
Water	q. s.

To the magnesium carbonate contained in the mortar gradually add the fluid extract. Having diluted the compound tincture of cardamom with seven fluid ounces of water and dissolved the oils in the alcohol add to the mixture and allow to stand for one-half hour, shaking occasionally. Then filter, percolate through the sugar and finally add one ounce of saccharin solution to the finished syrup.

The Art of Buying.

Pharmacists need not be reminded that, as in all other mercantile engagements, close buying constitutes an important element of success. And by close buying we do not mean only that the merchant shall secure the lowest prices on his purchases, but that he shall buy in such quantities that the goods may find sale within reasonable time. One often may secure closer prices by buying in larger quantities than his business requires, but this is false economy. By over-buying one not only adds to his stock of goods not readily sold, but in order to get the price desired, one must needs buy in such quantity that the unsold portion not only overbalances the profits on the goods sold, but also the apparent gain made in purchasing at the cheaper price. Again, in seeking a close price on goods, we must remember that there is a point at which good goods cannot be sold; in order to meet the price, quality must suffer.

A merchant who buys in excess of his legitimate wants is unwise. The pharmacist who buys camphor in 100-pound lots when his trade demands ten pounds, simply because he can save a cent a pound in the transaction, is in danger of losing more in the weight of the camphor through evaporation than he profited on the purchase through the reduced price.

The pharmacist's first duty to the public is that he know his business, then that he dispenses nothing but the best goods; and while he owes it to himself that these goods he bought as reasonably as possible, he is not justified in sacrificing quality for price. — *Western Druggist*.

Bulgarian Rose Oil.

According to a communication addressed to the *Politische Correspondent* from Sofia, the production of oil of roses in Bulgaria is for the present season 527,750 muscals (the figures being those of the Philippopolis Chamber of Commerce), against 600,000 muscals last year, i.e., a decrease of 72,250 muscals of six ounces. Producers are, however, slow to sell, and demand 7 francs per muscal, although there is a stock of some 200,000 muscals still on hand. The quality of the new crop is reported to be excellent.