the owner of a fine store will hear of no other but the occupying of his building; nor would we wish to say that all of these and many other similar advantages are of great importance to the successful storekeeper. But none of them is the elixir of trade. The elixir is no new discovery. Its value was recognized by our grandparents, and will be equally esteemed by our children's children, so long as men continue to make a living by buying and selling.

The elixir consists of Buying for Cash. Selling for cash is perhaps one of its attendants, though not always a necessity. The system of cash buying has so many advantages that it is almost to be wondered that it is not universally practised. The first conceptions of trade consisted in the simultaneous exchange of two articles, the use of a coin of recognized value being the natural outcome of the influence of civilization. But civilization rarely introduces a beneficial change without very soon inventing a counteracting abuse, and so it came about that when a man possessed no coins he asked for the goods he required and promised to pay for them with the first coins that should be paid to him. It is not difficult to connect the first granting of credit with the present elaborate system of signing promissory notes and the discounting of them in the banks. But as in the first step the buyer was at the mercy of the seller as to the price and quality of his goods, so now-a-days the man who asks for credit cannot in the same breath claim special prices. In fact the very system of granting cash discounts to those who will pay on receipt of their goods is an outspoken avowal of this truth. In a business of any size the cash discount itself is a fair profit, but many times greater are the advantages offered to the man who is known to pay his bills promptly. Not only is he sought after by all who have for sale goods adapted to his trade, but if ever a bargain is to be made he is the first to receive the offer. To buy for cash may give one a little more trouble. Smaller quantities more frequently purchased cause extra work, but this is more than made up for by not having to worry over the meeting of notes at maturity. One of the first evils of the credit system is the inducement to slaughter goods in order to realize upon them in time to meet the note. The many evils of "cutting" prices need not be gone into here, but it will be evident that there will not be nearly the same tendency to give way to the pernicious habit in cases where the goods have been paid for. From this it will be seen that it is to the advantage of the retailer not only to buy for cash himself, but to force his opposition to do so, and if the retail trade in each town were to combine in the different trades and agree only to buy for cash and not to buy from any house who did not pledge themselves to sell ONLY for cash in that town, they would soon find that useless competition would cease, that worthless men could not start in business, and that as a consequence their profits would annually increase.

EXTRACT OF MALT AS A VEHICLE.

BY S. M BURROUGHS.

Extract of malt has now been favourably known for many years, and new uses are constantly being found for it. In former times, we learn, it was extensively employed in the navy as an aperient. In latter days its evaporation at a low temperature in vacuo has preserved the diastase to such a degree as to render it a valuable digestive agent, especially desirable as an accessory and vehicle for the administration of pepsin, pancreatin, zymine, and other reliable digestive ferments. The early preparations of extract of malt, evaporated in an open pan, were as black as tar, possessed the odour and taste of burnt sugar, and were totally devoid of digestive properties. The other valuable elements were also probably injured to a considerable degree by the heat and exposure. At present, however, by means of improved apparatus and appliance, extract of malt is supplied of a light brown color, possessing a very agreeable taste, so much so that it is an acceptable sweetening agent for farinaceous foods, such as puddings, porridge, etc., for which it is particularly desirable in many cases on account of its digestive powers in converting starch, and also for the reason that the malt sugar contained in it is not liable to acetous fermentation, as is cane sugar. Medical men have not been slow to note the advantages of extract of malt as a vehicle for the administration of various medicaments, in conjunction with which it has been extensively prescribed. Dr. Roberts, in a paper read before a branch meeting of the British Medical Association at Northwich, in speaking of the digestive value of extract of malt, called particular attention to its advantages as a vehicle, and especially for mixing with cod-liver oil. Extract of malt, when well prepared, is less liable to ferment or crystallise than ordinary syrup. On account of its digestive and nutritive properties it is particularly useful for admixture with medicines in all cases of impaired digestion, acidity, etc. Its thick consistence adapts it for mixing with medicines which would be more likely to deposit a precipitate when given in other vehicles. It also appears to possess a remarkable property of masking the taste of disagreeable drugs such as iron, quinine, strychine, cascara, etc. As Sir William Roberts has pointed out, its most remarkable use as a vehicle is for mixing with cod-liver oil. When properly prepared the extract possesses the power of dissolving the cod-liver oil. The solution can be easily demonstrated under the microscope, especially if a drop of water is added to the specimen, when the margin of the previously clear solution will be seen to have separated, and to show minute globules of oil, smaller than the globules in milk, floating about in the water. This solution is somewhat difficult to prepare, except on a large scale, and with special machinery. As chemists may often find it desirable to prepare some of these combinations themselves, instead of purchasing them ready made, I think it may be of some practical interest to submit our working formula for the preparation of several combinations, which can be made extemporaneously. I should, however, state that in most instances we make the Kepler combinations by adding the medicament to the filtered sweet wort before evaporation.

The quantity of extract of malt with cod-liver oil to be taken for each of the following combinations is 16 fluid oz.

To 16 oz. add:—

1.	Solution of hyphosphites	1 oz
2.	Sol. pyrophosphate iron	1 "
3.	Ac. hydrochlor	1 "
	Aquæ	1 dr
	Pepsin (Fairchild)	gr. 30
	Glycerol ad	4 oz
4.	Aq	1 dr
	Sod. carb	q. s.
	Zymine (Fairchild)	gr. 30
	Glycerol ad	4 oz
5.	Ac. hydr	1 dr
	Aq	1 "
	Lacto peptine	gr. 30
	Glycerol ad	4 oz
6.	Infus. lupuli, B.P	1 "
7.	Sol. ferri iod	fl. oz. 2½
8.	Sol. of phosphates (Chemical Food)	1 oz
9.	Sol. of quinine and iron	½ "
10.	Sol. of quinine, iron and strychnia	2 dr
11.	Sherry (detannated with gelatine)	16 oz
12.	Burrough's beef and iron wine	16 "
13.	Sol. of phosphorus	2 oz

DANGEROUS CHLOROFORM.

Some chloroform obtained from a highly respectable German firm having aroused the suspicions of operators by the frequency with which patients anæsthetized with it presented grave symptoms, Professor Menthin, of Warsaw, undertook to examine it, along with a number of chloroforms obtained from other firms. The results were that not a single sample entirely answered the tests of the Russian Pharmacopœia, which are somewhat stringent, though less so than those of the French Codex. Professor Menthin—whose article is published in the Vrach, giving details and names of the firms from which the different samples were obtained—found that all the specimens left a residue on evaporation, some of these residues being evidently of a very prejudicial character, causing headache and giddiness on prolonged smelling. One of them smelt at first like nitro-benzol with an