

cessful mystery of business questions calls for a personal interest, a forgetfulness of self, that can only come from the closest application and the most absolute concentration. I go so far in my belief of concentration to business interests in business hours, as to argue that a young man's personal letters have no right to come to his office address, nor should he receive his social friends at his desk. Business hours are none too long in the great majority of our offices; and with a rest of one hour for luncheon, no one has a right to chop off fifteen minutes here to read an irrelevant personal letter, or fifteen minutes there to talk with a friend whose conversation distracts the mind from the problems before it. A young man cannot draw the line between his business life and his social life too closely. It is all too true of thousands of young men that they are better conversant, during the baseball season, with the average of Roger Connor, or the number of men "put out at second" by "Buck" Ewing, than they are with the discounts of their business; and this useless knowledge too many of our young men allow themselves to their own detriment—Edward W. Bok in the *Cosmopolitan*.

Medicine in Morocco.

Dr. Leared, who repeatedly visited Morocco, and spent a considerable time there, gives some very curious details as to the state of medicine among the Moors. The mantle of Avicenna, or of Rhazes, he says, has not fallen on their modern representatives. Certain nondescript practitioners may be seen squatting in the streets. They dispense drugs and practise astrology, for the last is regarded as a most useful adjunct to the medical art. Most of the drugs in use are herbs, which are brought to market by women. Of these the greater number are well known and in common use in Europe. But in Morocco greater faith is probably placed in written charms than in the most active drugs. The former are given in various diseases and under various circumstances, as, for instance, when a person is about to undertake a journey or to transact business.

Certain surgical operations are practised and the Moorish doctors even perform the operation of couching for cataract. There is a kali-lah beyond Taflet which is noted for its oculists. One of the applications to the eye is that of the doctor's tongue, which is drawn across the organ while it is held open. No doubt sand and other foreign bodies are thus effectively licked out. The application of a red hot iron—the actual cautery—is held in high esteem. Cupping is managed by means of cuts made with a razor; the wide end of a cow's horn is then placed over them, and

through the hole at the tip the operator draws blood by suction. Bleeding from the arm is also practised, and among the Jews women are always bled in the last month of pregnancy. The grossest superstitions are mixed up with the Moor's conception of the healing art.

The Jewesses of Mogador, by the advice of old women practice the following method for the cure of certain diseases. They select the outlet of a sewer, and throw into the filthy liquid which flows from it seven eggs, broken up one by one. These are well mixed with the sewage. Prayers are then offered to demons, and the horrible mixture is swallowed seven times. It is difficult to understand how the patient survives the remedy. If ever

was a very smooth, cream-colored concretion, the interior of which showed the mode of formation in concentric circles. When used the bezoar is rubbed on a stone, and the powder thus obtained is swallowed. It was stated that it was necessary that the patient who took it should observe strict regimen, and remain in the house for seven days. Bezoars are esteemed as sovereign remedies for diseases of the heart, liver, and other internal organs, as also for sore eyes, for rheumatism and other ailments.

Gold dust is taken internally when it is desired to prevent offspring. Shot is swallowed with the same intention, and also scrapings from a rhinoceros's horn.

Ants are given to lethargic people as a remedy, on the principle, we may presume, of antithesis and pure allopathy; but as it is held that eating lion's flesh makes a cowardly man's heart brave, it would also seem that homeopathy is not despised (sic). A chameleon split open alive is a common application to wounds and sores. The dried body of the animal is also employed. This is burned, and the noisome fumes arising therefrom are inhaled by the patient as a sovereign remedy for debility. *Brit. Med. Journal*.

Vaselone.

A new product, analogous to vaselin, having recently appeared in commerce, and whose composition, etc., was kept secret, M. Villon undertook its analysis, and now writes to *Le Monde Pharmaceutique* to say that vaselone is a mixture of stearone and margarone, dissolved in neutral mineral oil.

Stearone is first prepared by distilling 75 parts of commercial stearic acid with 25 parts of dry, powdered quick lime. Distillation is performed at a temperature of less than 100° C. The substance that passes over (stearone) melts at 86° C. Margarone is prepared by similarly distilling beef tallow and lime in the same proportions. Fifteen parts of margarone and 5 parts of stearone, dissolved in 100 parts of neutral mineral oil constitute vaselone. The new product

resembles vaselin in most of its characteristics, being white, odorless, neutral, and not attackable by mineral acids or other chemical reagents. It is, however, not so translucent as vaselin. Its chief use seems to be in perfumery, though it is recommended as a substitute for vaselin in pharmacy.—*Nat. Druggist*.

The Crown Princess of Roumania inherits the taste of her grandmother, the late Empress of Russia, for perfumery bottles. She already possesses a large collection of these articles, though it does not yet represent the value of that left by her ancestor—\$25,000.



"I WONDER HOW ANY OF YOU LITTLE BEGGARS HAVE COME TO STAY" From *British and Colonial Druggist*.

there was a case in which a cure is worse than the disease, it is surely to be found in this treatment by liquid manure.

Cholera is attributed to evil spirits who gain possession of people. To avoid meeting them it is the custom, when the disease is prevalent, to keep as close as possible to walls when out of doors. For the same reason sandhills are avoided, as they are considered to be a great resort of evil spirits.

Bezoars, from the *horrep*, or Sahara antelope, are held in great esteem. Signor Korkos, of the city of Morocco, showed Dr. Leared one the size of a small walnut, for which he paid 12 dollars. It