

upon it. Euchinin in fifteen grain doses is claimed to be equal to ten grains of quinine, but in England this dose is rarely given except in ague or remittent fevers. The remedy can be given best in wafers or cachets, and, as might be expected from its method of preparation, it is much more costly than quinine. The present price is about \$1 per ounce. As there are occasionally cases occurring where quinine cannot be administered owing to the disagreeable after-effects, it is as well for pharmacists to note the advent of the substitute so as to advise their physician if required.

Those Canadian *confrères* who are desirous of seeing reciprocity established between the mother country and the Dominion in the matter of pharmaceutical licenses to open shop, should bear in mind that Ireland is in the same position, and does not appear to desire a change. An amusing *contretemps*, took place a few months ago in consequence of Mr. Labouchere's organ, *Truth*, having raised the question why an Irish chemist should not be allowed to practice in England? Of course the answer was very simple, and applies to Canadians and colonials as well. The British society has no power to accept any other certificates, whilst it is bound by the Pharmacy Acts to prosecute anyone keeping an open shop who is not upon the British register. But Mr. Labouchere, with the burning desire to get to the root of everything, sent an emissary to Bloomsbury Square, who extracted an answer to his query to the effect that the Irish qualification was not good enough for Great Britain. Then the fat was in the fire. The Irish society got excited, and this is *Truth's* clever *précis* of the correspondence, which bears quite a Kruger-Chamberlain flavor:

(1) *Dublin to London*: Is this paragraph correct?

(2) *London to Dublin*: As far as I am aware, incorrect.

(3) *Dublin to London*: Reply not satisfactory. Did anyone on your premises make alleged statement?

(4) *London to Dublin*: Regret our reply is deemed unsatisfactory. Desire to promote fraternal spirit between persons following same honorable calling and speaking same language. Further discussion may tend to disturb amicable relations.

(5) *Dublin to London*: Reciprocate noble sentiments, but would like to have question answered.

(6) *London to Dublin*: Of course. Pray lay answer before your council.

But the fact remains, although it required proper explanation, that the Irish qualification for pharmaceutical chemist is not of such a high standard as the British. On the other hand, only a small number of British chemists pass this examination, most of them being satisfied with the minor examination and its title, "chemist and druggist," with which the Irish qualification certainly compares very favorably. It would obviously

be more to the point if Mr. Labouchere were to introduce an amended pharmacy bill enabling these societies to recognize certificates of equal value, both home and colonial, instead of setting the societies at loggerheads. Reciprocity is in the air, but the reply to the Australians, who have alone suggested that their certificates should be accepted in England, has naturally been to suggest that it would be as well to establish reciprocity throughout Australia before approaching the mother country.

Mr. William Poppelreuter, of Portland street, Manchester, is well known as the agent for Hucusel's patented turpeneless essential oils, the best known of which is that of lemon, which answers admirably for soluble essence. He has now introduced Klever's Valsol, which is stated to be an oxygenated hydrocarbon, although how the oxygen is made to combine with the vaseline basis is left unexplained. In appearance the valsol itself is like a thickened petroleum jelly, but valsol oils are offered in combination with definite proportions of iodine, iodoform, creosote, guaiacol, etc. It is claimed that these drugs are dissolved in the valsol oil and the solution does not stain the skin or have any irritant effect upon the skin or mucous membrane. From the point of view of the pharmacist the only drawback is that these solutions must be obtained from the manufacturer or his agent, and cannot be made up at the dispensing counter, as the valsol oils are not supplied unmedicated.

The election of Professor William Ramsay, Ph.D., F.R.S., as a vice-president of the London Chemical Society, and at the same time awarding him the Longstaff medal, is a welcome sign that his real merit in the discovery of argon is at last being recognized at home. It is always the case that more scepticism exists nearer home than abroad regarding great discoveries, and there were not wanting signs of disbelief amongst the leading lights at the Chemical Society when Dr. Ramsay's announcement was first made. Professor Dewar was the first to state plainly that argon could not exist, as if it did he should have obtained some sign of it during his liquefaction of air. Professors Dunstan and Armstrong set their research students to work on the subject with the expectation of catching Dr. Ramsay at fault. But as a patient, careful, accurate, and unostentatious observer, Professor Ramsay has more than made his mark, and the Royal Society, following the Paris Academy, has paid him the honor of electing him to its council and awarding its medal, and the Chemical Society does well to follow suit. The dead set that has been made against him in scientific circles, by which he was deprived of the examinership at the London University, is breaking down as his merit is slowly forcing itself upon some unwilling minds. It is no light honor in these days of feverish chemical research on the part of German investigators that the country that produced Cavendish should

have also produced Ramsay. The fact that the discovery is shared with a physicist, Lord Rayleigh, is in no way detrimental to Ramsay's claim, as without his aid argon would have no separate existence at the present day.

Drug Assistants' Association.

There has at last been formed on a good working basis an association of the retail drug assistants of Toronto. It has, so far, been received by employers and clerks as a starting point in a livelier interest in the drug profession. The officers appointed, along with the Executive Committee, feel highly encouraged in their work, and hope in a short time to have all the drug clerks in the city on their membership roll. The object of the association is to awaken a deeper interest in the professional welfare of the members, and to further their mutual acquaintance.

At the last meeting, held in the Y. M. C. A. Hall, Yonge street, there was a goodly number present, with President Spinks in the chair. All the several officers being present. Here the city was divided among a larger committee, consisting of (1) Messrs. Young and Spinks, (2) Messrs. Rouse and Garrow, (3) Messrs. Tobin and English. This committee were instructed to make personal canvas of their respective divisions and interview prospective members, and collect the initiatory fee.

Press-Head for Bar-Soap Cutter.

A. Krull, of Helmstedt, has patented (in Germany) the following arrangement: The press-head consists of a metal plate perforated with a number of holes very close together, in which are fitted an equal number of iron bolts for pushing forward the block and allowing the wires to cut right through to the very end, these bolts thus replacing the grooved plate formerly used. Their advantage consists in their ready adjustability for cutting bars of any diameter—all that is necessary, when the cutting wires have been adjusted, being to take out the wooden block holding the heads of the bolts in position, and then moving the head of the press forward until it rests against the wires, which latter will push out of the holes such of the bolts as they encounter, leaving behind such as will suffice to effect the end in view. The backing block is then screwed down again, and the head is ready for the new cutting.

WHAT WE ARE COMING TO.

We have boiled the hydrant water,
We have sterilized the milk;
We have strained the prowling microbe,
Through the finest kind of silk;
We have bought and we have borrowed
Every patent health device.
And at last the doctor tells us
That we've got to boil the ice.

Journal.