Pharmaceutical Department.

A. H. KOLLMYER, M.A., M.D, Editor.

Among other distinguished visitors coming in to Canada during the present summer we may expect to see the potato-bug, and simultaneously with his advent there will arise a demand for Paris green. Now, as this substance consists of a mixture of acetate and arsenite of copper, and contains over fifty per cent. of arsenic, it can be legitimately ranked under the "compounds of arsenic," mentioned in the Act regulating the sale of poisons, substances which can only be sold by the duly registered druggist, and only to persons known by the vendor, while each sale is to be registered in a book kept for that special purpose. However, this green is so commonly used as a paint that it is to be met with in many other stores besides the druggists, and these retail it indiscriminately to gardeners, farmers, and others, without any precautions whatsoever being taken, often without even labelling it; which is in direct contravention of the law and against the public safety, for the security of which the law was enacted. Druggists therefore would only do their duty as good citizens by laying information before the proper authorities in cases where they know the law is disregarded.

BOOK REVIEW.

We are in receipt of the second American edition of *Farquharson's Therapeutics*, published by Henry C. Lea, of Philadelphia. In the first American edition very considerable additions were found desirable to adapt it thoroughly to the wants of the American student—additions that seemed to warrant the insertion of the words "Materia Medica" in the title page. Without altering the peculiar features of the original, some changes were made in the arrangement, and very copious notes introduced, embodying the latest revision of the U. S. pharmacopia, together with the antidotes to the more prominent poisons, and such of the newer remedial agents as seemed necessary to the completeness of the work. All matter thus added is distinguished from the text by brackets.

The acceptance of these modifications by the author, and his very conscientious revision of the whole, have rendered unnecessary any considerable additions by the editor in the present edition. He has, however, thought it advisable to introduce the metric system in addition to the old form of writing prescriptions, in deference to the demands of scientific progress and uniformity of observations. A ready reference table of poisons at the end of the book, and in the text itself the tests of the prominent poisons have been inserted. It will be found that the additions that have been made to the work (which have increased its size nearly one-fourth) have more than proportionately enhanced its value to the student.

Compounding Prescriptions at Home.—An American druggist declares that he lately received the following receipe, which his customer explained had been copied from a "doctor's book":—

12 grains each of Lactate of iron
Citrate of iron
Strychnine
Sulphate of quinine
Make twelve powders. Take one every four hours.

Asking first if the medicine was for a crocodile or a christian, the druggist pointed out that it would be hardly necessary to make up all the dozen powders unless a family burying was in contemplation. The gentleman who copied the prescription now knows that citrate of iron and strychnine is not the same as the same articles sepreated. Even the apparently simple art of copying prescriptions requires some little previous training.—*Chemist and Druggist.*

A New Fact Regarding Safety Matches.—In a communication to the *Chemical News* Lieut. B. A. Muirhead says, that the so-called safety matches, "warrented to ignite only on the box," will strike freely on common coal, provided that both be prefectly dry. The combustible carbon of the coal acts like, and takes the place of the amorphous phosphorus, on the rubber of the box. It is thought that this fact may lead to the manufacture of a safety match without phosphorus, a result which, as observed by Hoffman, "would indeed be a grand achievement."

It is Reported from Munich that a case of arsenical poisoning has occurred in a man who has been suffering from a disease of the eyes, who has for a long time worn a green silk screen over his face. *Chemist and Druggist.*

An American Journal states that two fine young shorthorn bulls have died from eating oleander leaves.

Preservation of the Natural Color of Dried Plants.—The *Journal of Applied Chemistry* publishes a notice of the method of M. Stoelzl for preserving the colors of plants, particularly those of a succulent nature, as orchids and others prone to decomposition. One part of salicylic acid is dissolved in 600 parts of alcohol, and the solution heated to boiling in an evaporating dish; the whole plant is slowly drawn through it—a prolonged im-