

THE HIGHEST PRICED DRUGS.

One of the most used ingredients in medicine is the value of some.

The question was asked a few days ago as to what is the costliest drug sold by New York druggists. If the reader should have the curiosity to ask his friends or business acquaintances at drug stores he would be likely to meet with various answers.

The expensive drugs are not used; if they were used they wouldn't be expensive. As soon as a thing comes into general use a way to cheapen it or to cheapen its production is found. While it remains very expensive it might as well not be on the price lists, for other materials supply the need usually which it might fill. Once in a while a drug somewhat high in price is prescribed in medicine by a physician who has a final patient with money, but that doesn't often happen. Again, some rare drug or chemical which is produced at great labor or care is wanted in some delicate analysis or chemical experiment, and in such circumstances only. Of course, being seldom used and difficult of production, its price is high. But, generally speaking, high priced drugs are not used in drug stores.

High-priced, however, is a relative term in drugs as in most commodities, although relative in a different sense than when applied, for example, to clothing, since the proportion of service to cost does not enter into the calculation. In the first place, in considering the question, a definition of the word drug must be understood. To many persons a drug means a medicine for internal or external use. In this sense, more especially, there are comparatively few expensive drugs, if a little matter of \$50 more or less, an ounce for drugs commonly handled by the grain be counted as unimportant, and most of these few the druggists aver are little used. If the definition of the word drug given first by the dictionary be accepted the field widens at once; Any vegetable, animal or mineral substance used in the composition of or preparation of medicines; hence, also, any ingredient used in chemical preparations employed in the arts.

In the wide range of meaning which the word has in common use, it is easy to see how an inquirer might meet with various answers to the question. What is the most expensive drug? A definite answer it might not be prudent to give. The reporters search brought him to germanium, listed in the index, to the preparation of one of the largest firms of manufacturing druggists in the city at \$7 for one and a half grains, or the pretty figure of \$2 240 an ounce. The uses of germanium the index did not give and inquiries of several druggists failed to reveal them, as did consultation of encyclopedias in English, German and French. But there was no question about the price, or of the record of the article among the preparations of the druggists. Germanium is a metal of grayish white lustre and very brittle, discovered in 1886 by Winkler in the mineral argyrodite, which contains silver, sulphur and germanium, a sulphide of germanium and silver, found at Freiberg Saxony. It melts at 900° C. does not tarnish in air at ordinary temperature and dissolves in aqua regia.

Among the higher-priced drugs to be found in the list which are used for medicines is carpine, at a dollar a grain, or \$4 80 an ounce at wholesale, or carpine hydrochlorate, at the same price. Carpine is used in cases of mitral insufficiency, and administered in doses of only a fifth or a third of a grain. What the retail price of this would be sold under prescription is matter of conjecture. The drug is sold to the retailer in fifteen-grain vials at \$15.00.

At the same rate comes cornutine citrate which has the same uses as cornutine, that sells at \$14 for fifteen grains. Cornutine is in the form of a reddish mass or flesh colored powder, obtained from ergot and by some said to be the true active principle of ergot. It is used in certain hemorrhages and for other purposes in very small doses, in some cases as low as one twentieth of a grain a day.

Lithium, used in chronic rheumatism, is quoted at \$8 for fifteen grains, \$256 an ounce. Yet lithium classed as a soft metal the lightest solid element, is found in sea-water and in the water of most rivers and surface springs and in most mineral waters.

Homatropine, at \$6 for fifteen grains is used for the same purpose as atropine. It is less toxic than atropine and when it is used to dilate the pupil of the eye the pupil subsides more quickly than after the use of atropine. Laudanine, obtained from opium, and somewhat resembling strychnine, sells for \$9 for fifteen grains, and laudanum at \$90 for fifteen grains. Laudanine is a crystalline alkaloid, sometime colorless, sometimes pale red. Laudanine is a rare metal, dark of a gray lead color. Another metal, cerium, a dark gray powder, is among the drugs at \$7 50 for fifteen grains.

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It is not what we say, but what Hood's Sarsaparilla does, that tells the story. Thousands of testimonials are examples of what Hood's has done for others, and what it will do for you.

Dyspepsia— "I was weak and had fainting spells. Dyspepsia and indigestion in severe form troubled me. Five bottles of Hood's Sarsaparilla made me well and strong." Mrs. WILLIAM VARTALKER, Whitby, Ont.

A Good Medicine— "We have taken Hood's Sarsaparilla in our family as a spring medicine and used Hood's Pills for biliousness and found both medicines very effective. For impure blood we know Hood's Sarsaparilla is a good medicine." R. S. PRINCE, publisher Beechwood, Ont.

Hood's Sarsaparilla
Never Disappoints

Hood's Pills cure liver bile; the non-irritating and only cathartic to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

Methyl-strychnine is quoted at \$5 for fifteen grains, or \$160 an ounce; muscarine sulphate and muscarine nitrate each at \$5.50 for fifteen grains. The latter is used as an antidote to atropine and in one-thirtieth of a grain doses for diabetes. It is a nitric acid salt of an alkaloid obtained from Agaricus muscarius, a fly fungus.

Mauvine hydrobromate, an alkaloid of mauvi bark, from a Mozambique tree, selling at \$4 for fifteen grains, or \$1.28 an ounce, is a yellowish white powder used as a cardiac stimulant and also as an ordeal poison.

Cannabine, an alkaloid obtained from Cannabis sativa, a fine seed, and quoted at \$320 an ounce, or \$10 for fifteen grains, is described as a hypnotic without dangerous secondary effects. This price, like all the others here given, is the wholesale price.

Methyl chloride, a gas either odor compressed to a liquid in cylinders, is sold to the retail trade at \$25 for a one-litre siphon. It is used as a local anesthetic in cases of severe neuralgia, pruritus and spinal pains.

Oil of arnica flowers is on the list at \$30 an ounce as a remedy used externally for rheumatism, gout and injuries. "I never sold a bit of it, nor have I heard of it being called for or prescribed," said a pharmacist of forty years' experience in one of the busiest stores.

Narcotine, an alkaloid obtained from opium and producing effects similar to but milder than those of morphine, comes at \$18 an ounce. It is said to be free from the disagreeable after effects of morphine. Piperazine, rarely spoken of, but entered

as used for rheumatism, sells at \$4 for one quarter of an ounce. Lobeline, an antispasmodic but a poison, sells at \$4 for fifteen grains, or \$128 an ounce. It is obtained from lobelia. Eserine, an antidote for strychnine and also used in rheumatism comes at 15 cents a grain or \$75 an ounce. It is sold at wholesale in quantities of five grains for 75 cents.

A rather expensive drug, a good deal of which is used in pilocarpine, an alkaloid obtained from jaborandi and used as a tonic for the hair. It sells at from 14 cents to 50 cents a grain, or from \$67 to \$240 an ounce. Aconitine, for the relief of pain, is quoted at \$8 per ounce; apomorphine hydrochlorate, an emetic used in cases of poisoning, for the dislodging of foreign bodies in the oesophagus and as a heart depressor, at \$7 an ounce; atropine, a cardiac stimulant and anti-spasmodic, at \$4 50 an ounce.

While the diphtheria antitoxin sells at comparative low prices, the tetanus (lockjaw) antitoxin, which is obtained from the blood serum of mammals, sells at \$35 for four grammes, or at the rate of \$200 an ounce. It is used in injections of from two and a quarter to three and a quarter grains.

Two other metals found in the drug list come at high figures—calcium at \$10 for fifteen grains and beryllium at \$22 for fifteen grains, or \$320 and \$704 an ounce respectively. Beryllium is one of the earths produced from beryl, and is often called glaucium.

JOHN WAS SHUBBED.

He was an Expert but His Knowledge Wasn't Appreciated.

The Detroit Free Press knows a boy who thinks he would like to be a naturalist if he received satisfactory encouragement from his parents.

A microscope had been given him on his tenth birthday, and forraking all other interests he devoted himself to the study of nature with such ardor that by tea-time on the first day he was much excited over his newly acquired knowledge, and sought to give it out for the entertainment of the people at the table.

Guests were present, and turning to the lady nearest him, with a smiling face he inquired:

"Did you ever look at cheese through a microscope?"

"I do not remember to have done so," she pleasantly replied, withdrawing from her lips the bit she was about to eat.

"Well, you just ought to see the things crawl on it."

"John!" exclaimed his father, "eat your supper!"

The lady quietly tucked the piece of cheese under the side of her plate, and John perceived that his information on that subject wasn't wanted.

When strawberries were placed upon the table John burst forth again.

"You ought to look at a strawberry through a microscope! They look just like warts, and you think you can see bug a running!"

A pure hard Soap

SURPRISE SOAP

MAKES CHILD'S PLAY OF WASH DAY

"John!" said his mother. "Well, they look worse than flies heads!"

protested the eager naturalist, "for flies—"

"Boy!" said the father, "leave the table!"

John went out and sat on the woodpile, wondering why his father wouldn't allow him to "talk sense" when he had really something to say.

Elk by Ants.

An exchange tells of a man in Australia who was killed by ants. Such an occurrence is said not to be very uncommon in that country. It is described as more dreadful than the horrors devised by the most ingenious of the Grand Inquisitors.

The man was a prospector, and while digging in the side of a hill was injured by a fall of earth. As he lay partly covered and unable to move, he was attacked by a nest of ants, and for more than an hour millions of the voracious insects simply fed upon him. He died shortly after being rescued.

There is a case on record of a Banarat wood-carrier who was found under his overturned dray, suffering fearful tortments. He had been attacked by ants, and would certainly have succumbed had it not been for his day. The animal, a cattle-dog, only discovered what was wrong after several hours, and then, by persistently scratching at the stream of ants on the ground and licking them from his master's face and arms, kept him comparatively free till help arrived.

Put to New Uses.

In Lyons glass is being put to new and practical uses. Pavements of ceramic stone or devitrified glass have been laid in the principal thoroughfares in the city, and under heavy and continuous traffic for several months have shown no greater deterioration than marks the similar life of stone pavement.

Glass is also being made into a material known ceramo-crystal and is being widely used for building and interior decorations, much as cut stone. The new material possesses all the intrinsic qualities physical and chemical, of glass, except the transparency, and at the same time is

made to resist crushing frost, heavy shocks and usage.

A proposition to erect a glass house or luminous palace at the Paris Exposition will probably be pushed, and the building will present completely the possibilities of glass as a structural material.

As He Put It.

Shortly after the ordination of the Rev. S. R. Crockett, the well-known novelist, he chanced to be travelling in a railway compartment with a few friends when a small farmer, one of his new parishners, entered the carriage and was introduced to the new member of Presbytery, but said not a word.

Arriving at his station, he got out and stood at the door.

"An' ye tell me this is the new minister?" He looked long and sadly at Mr. Crockett. Then with a sigh; "Well-wel!" he added finally, "A'm a b'tter judge o' fit beast than o' a minister!"

A Much Maligned Beverage.

"Death in the tea-pot." Well, cheap tea—steeped instead of steeped—caused the saying. Good tea properly drawn, is a wholesome, as well as palatable drink; but if it or must be good, as, for instance, Tully's Elephant Brand India-China Tea.

For Mere Obstinacy.

An amusing story of amateur sports comes to the London Academy from the far East, all the way from Perak, in the Malay Peninsula.

The sun was blazing down on a field of hot, excited horses and men all waiting for a tall, raw-boned beast, to yield to the importunities of the starter and get into line.

The patience of the latter was nearly exhausted. "Bring up that horse!" he shouted. "Bring up that horse! You'll get into trouble over this I tell you that!"

"The rider of the refractory beast a youthful lightweight, replied, patiently:

"I'm as tired of it as you are, sir, but I can't help it. This is a cab-horse, this horse is. He won't start till the door shuts, and I haven't got a door!"

Sympathy.

Probably the reader has heard voices which the following will recall to his mind:

"I know Mr. Fidgety is a good man," said one of the members of the family, as the caller had gone, "but it makes me so tired to hear him talk!"

"I know why it is," said another member of the family. "You feel like clearing your throat all the time to help him out."

NOTICE.

NOTICE is hereby given that under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain Indenture of mortgage bearing date the twenty-third day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety four, and registered in the office of the Registrar of Deeds in and for the City and County of St. John as number 6887, in Book 56 of Records pages 80, 81, 82 and 83, on the seventh day of February A. D. 1894, and made between William Thompson of the City of Saint John in the City and County of St. John and Province of New Brunswick and Mary Knox of the same place, widow of the late James Knox of the one part, and George R. Fenety of the City of Fredericton in the County of York and Province of New Brunswick, Queen's Printer of the other part, there will for the purpose of satisfying the moneys secured and made payable in and by the said Indenture of mortgage default having been made in the payment thereof, be sold at public auction at Clark's Corner, so called, in the said City of St. John, on SATURDAY, THE TWENTY-SECOND DAY OF JULY NEXT, at the hour of twelve of the clock noon of that day, the lands and premises in the said Indenture of mortgage described as following: That is to say:—

"A LOT OF CERTAIN LOT, PIECE OR parcel of land situate lying and being in the city of Saint John aforesaid and bounded and described as follows:—Beginning at the South West Corner of Duke and Westworth Streets thence running along the Southern side of Duke Street forty feet in a Westerly direction thence Southerly and parallel to Westworth Street one hundred and five feet thence Southerly parallel to Duke Street forty feet to Westworth Street thence Northerly along Westworth Street to the place of beginning."

ALSO, "All that certain other piece or parcel of land situate fronting on said Westworth Street described as follows:—Beginning at a point on the Westerly side of Westworth Street Southerly one hundred and five feet from Duke Street thence Southerly twenty one feet to Westworth Street thence Westerly to right angles to Westworth Street eighty feet thence Southerly parallel to Westworth Street twenty one feet thence Southerly to the place of beginning."

Together with all buildings erections and improvements thereon.

Dated the eighteenth day of May A. D. 1899.

GEORGE R. FENETY,
Mortgagee.

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