

Compressed Tablets and Tablet Triturates.

BY JOHN H. HAHN, PH.G.

Read before the Pennsylvania Pharmaceutical Association.

Compressed tablets and tablet triturates have become very popular of late years, for the purpose of administering drugs formerly prescribed in pilular form, and for preparing accurate solutions for medication; they have almost entirely superseded the old form of medicated lozenges. The increased popularity of this class of preparations may be judged from the fact that in 1888 one per cent., and in 1891 two per cent. of the original prescriptions compounded in a certain store in Philadelphia were for compressed tablets.

The question has been often asked: Does it pay the retail druggist to manufacture compressed goods? This is a very difficult question to decide satisfactory to all; for there are many who believe the work so laborious and difficult, and their time so valuable that they cannot afford to make them in such quantities as they may require to supply their demands.

While the above statement may be partly true, they are not by any means conclusive; for the practical experience which the writer has had in this particular branch of the profession, has led him to believe that it does pay, both directly and indirectly; and it is also his belief that a tablet compressor will be as necessary in the near future, as a pill machine or tile has been in the past, in order to keep abreast with the advancement of your chosen calling.

A practical illustration of how it pays was brought to the writer's notice some time ago, by a druggist in Philadelphia, who had received a prescription about the first week in January of the present year, for twenty compressed tablets of cocaine hydrochloride of $\frac{1}{16}$ grain each. The doctor not having specified any particular make, it was optional with the druggist whether he made them or purchased them from some one of the manufacturers. Of the two privileges he chose the latter, and thereby was compelled to buy an original package of 100 tablets at a cost of \$1.08, and 10 cents for car fare, making \$1.18. Twenty of them were dispensed, and the balance still remain in stock, and while tablets of different strengths have been called for, these have not been. Such cases as the above will be frequent; but by being prepared to do your own compressing, you will not only obviate the necessity of carrying a large and unnecessary stock, but will be able to serve your patrons with greater despatch, which is oftentimes quite an advertisement.

The secret of success depends entirely upon having the powders properly prepared, before subjecting them to compression; if you will therefore follow the directions as laid down in Remington's Practice of Pharmacy, together with a little practical experience, you cannot but

help to meet with good results. For hypodermic tablets, Dr. H. A. Wilson, of Philadelphia, recommends the use of chloride of sodium as a base, as being less irritant than other substances; but for sulphate of morphine-sulphate of sodium, and for acetate of morphine, acetate of sodium should be used.

It is very necessary to keep your compressor in a clean and thoroughly good condition. For this purpose have a chamois skin greased at one end with vaselin, and the piston and barrel should be well rubbed before and after using. It should also be borne in mind that too great pressure should not be used.

Compressed tablets and tablet triturates have every advantage over the pilular form of medicine, and from the fact of their not containing an excipient, which might cause a chemical change, they can be relied upon by the physician with greater certainty, as compared to gelatin or other coated pills.—*American Journal of Pharmacy.*

A Novel Advertisement.

S. B. WRIGHT.

The many articles on the employment of animated, or apparently animated, window displays have been read with great interest by your numerous readers, no doubt, as is evidenced by the pithy articles that have appeared from issue to issue. I agree with the side taken, that it is a valuable and paying institution. As an illustration of its advantages and the practicability of the scheme, I might cite dozens of instances in Washington alone, where the result of a striking and catchy window advertisement has been astounding in the way of business getting.

By permission, I refer to one in particular, which appeared in the window of one of our leading druggists a few weeks ago. In conversation with this merchant a few days since, he said, among other things, that there was no doubt in the world but that he partly owed his success to the extensive advertising plan on which he had conducted his business. It is one of his features to be original, and in this one instance he was quite successful, as may be seen from the following description:

He has an immense show window (for a drug store). It is about 16 feet wide. To its other advantages may be added the fact that it faces one of the most popular thoroughfares of the district—that of F street. Directly in the centre of the window was built a house like box, with one window in front and two others, one on either side. This enabled persons from any approach to see what was going on inside. Seated in this house was a pretty young woman, neatly attired in a violet colored dress, gracefully weighing out, ounce by ounce, a preparation of violet orris. In the window were articles of toilet, such as soap, sachet powders and toilet water, all of which bore the pleasant fragrance of violets.

Besides this liberal distribution of toilet articles, there were strewn over the bottom of the window the real flower itself, or imitation, making the effect all the more impressive. It is needless to say that the whole interior of the store was flooded with the delightful perfume of the popular little flower. It was not confined to the store, but escaped through the open doors into the street, reaching the nostrils of those standing round about, and impressing them all the more with the significance of the advertisement. It was a sale of the extract of the flower, and it is needless to say that this was readily recognized by all.

All day long throngs of people passed to and fro, nearly all of whom paused to gaze in the window, and many stopping for minutes, attracted by the novelty of the idea. The store, as I have said, is situated on the thoroughfare of the city, and is in a direct line with half a dozen and more of the Department buildings. At four o'clock in the day, when there is an exodus of thousands of tired mortals from these immense structures, the street is literally blocked for many minutes. One can well imagine the effect this sight in the drug store had. At first there was the usual gathering of those who have nothing else to do, who, tired with the sight after a time, began to move off, but before they had gotten out of hailing distance there were others happened along to take their places, and by the time the first contingent of the Departments reached the spot where there were, perhaps, fifty people standing in front of the window intently watching the movements of the young woman, who, apparently, was as unconcerned as though she were in her own room quietly knitting or darning.

It is needless to say that the effect was marked. Almost every section of the city was represented at some time during the day, and one could go nowhere without being met with the query: "Have you seen the violet girl?" This is some proof of the popularity of the venture, and I have no doubt but that the books of the merchant will show more forcibly the correctness of the statement—that it paid.

This instance has more firmly convinced me that this mode of advertising is popular, and it behooves the merchant of to-day to be up to the times by making every effort possible in the direction of bringing himself before the people most forcibly.

Window advertising is a payable institution, without a doubt.—*Printer's Ink.*

A Deodorant of Iodoform.

According to *Revue des Inventions Technique (Monit. de Pharm., 1892, 1138)* oil of turpentine acts as a strong deodorant for vessels to which the odor of iodoform adheres. The vessels are well covered with turpentine (a thin layer is only necessary), and in about a minute are washed with soap and water.—*Am. Jour. Phar.*