

Cradina, a New Digestive Ferment.

Ten years ago M. Bouchut found a powerful ferment in the juice of the common fig tree (*Ficus Carica*), and this is now the subject of a paper (in *L'Orosi*, 1890, p. 364) by Dr. Mussi, who gives a description of the isolation of the substance, and names it *cradina*, from *krade*, the name given by Greeks to the part of the fig associated with digestive power. It is insoluble in water, but dissolves readily upon the addition of a trace of acid or alkali, and the solution placed in contact with moist fibrin effects complete and true digestion.

It contains nitrogen, and in the dry state it forms a friable, semi-transparent, dark yellow, amorphous mass, yielding an amber-yellow powder.

In water it swells, but does not dissolve, though upon being shaken it imparts to the liquid a milky appearance.

When dissolved by the aid of alkali or acid, a concentrated solution is dark yellow, but becomes colorless upon being diluted.

Cradina differs from pepsin in maintaining its digestive power in an alkaline liquor, and from papayin or papayatin in being insoluble in water, not precipitated from solution by alcohol or lead acetate, and in its activity not being diminished in the presence of hydrochloric acid. In a

neutral liquid it is devoid of digestive power, and it has no action upon starch.

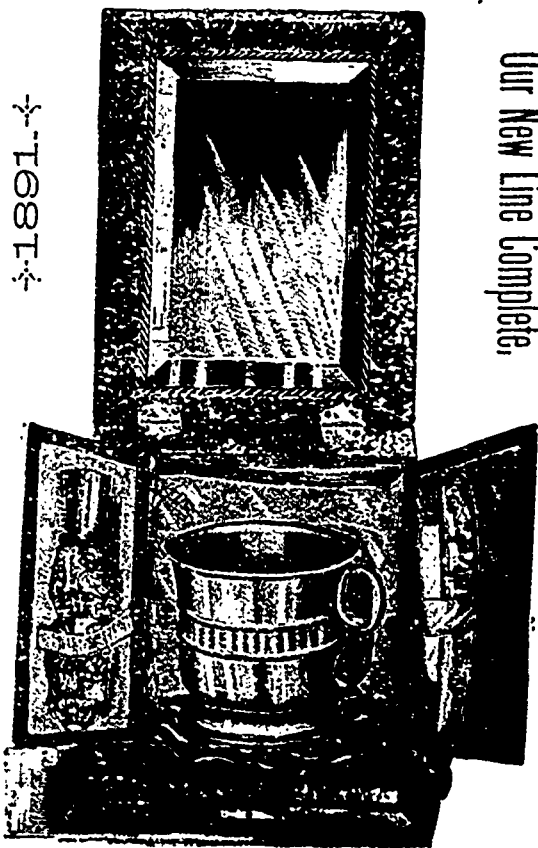
French Pharmacy and Its Future.

Most of your readers, writes the Paris correspondent of the *Lancet*, are doubtless aware that as there are in France two grades of medical practitioners—viz, doctors of medicine and *officiers de sante*—so there exist two orders of chemists, *pharmaciens de premiere* and *pharmaciens de seconde classe*. A movement has been initiated of late years tending toward the suppression of the inferior grade in both branches of the healing art. A Bill regulating the practice of pharmacy, and drawn up by the ex-Minister, M. Lockroy, has been reported on by a parliamentary committee, which approves of the reforms indicated above, and in addition pronounces against the plan of allowing hospital and infirmary dispensers to deposit at dispensaries and relieving offices medicaments specially prepared by them for distribution to the sick poor by persons designated by the said dispensers. The conclusions of the committee have been adversely criticised by the *Comite Consultatif d'Hygiene Publique*, who allege as reasons for the rejection of these two provisions the fact that the second grade pharmacists constitute two thirds of the 7,100 chemists who ply their calling in France, and, further, that one-fourth of the cantons have no resident chemist at all. The *Comite d'Hygiene*

recommend the abolition of the trade of herbalist on the ground of that hybrid relic of a darker epoch being *de trop*, and also because of the considerable amount of illegal advice given at these botanical depots. While on the subject of pharmacy I may mention that the *Progres Medical* has for some years advocated the taking up of this branch of industry by women. I myself have often speculated on the reasons which induce women, who so loudly complain of the limited scope allowed them in the choice of a career, to prefer the more anxious, if more dignified, functions of a medical practitioner to the obviously more appropriate calling of a chemist. At the dispensing counter the special genius of women for detail and delicate manipulation would find a fitting field without exercising an undue strain upon their physical powers, and undermining their health by the anxieties inseparable from the carrying on of a medical practice. The true reason is, probably, that the one calling ranks as a trade, while the other—the favored one—is a profession. In France there are a few *pharmaciennes*, the best known of them being officially attached to the *lycee* of Toulouse. Should the second-grade chemist, whose existence is menaced by legislation, be allowed to survive, the examination tests required of him should not prove too heavy a tax on the intelligence of the average educated Frenchwoman. —*British and Colonial Druggist*.

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