

"Very Satisfactory."

In last month's issue Messrs. Lawson & Jones, label printers, London, Ont., called the attention of the trade to their samples of calendars for next year. They write us that the "ad. was very satisfactory" and say "kindly continue our ad. re calendars as it appeared in last issue. Post card applications to see samples are coming in by every mail. Respectfully yours, Lawson & Jones."

As another instance of the value of advertising in the CANADIAN DRUGGIST, we have been shown an order from a drug firm in Newfoundland for some goods which were only advertised in the DRUGGIST last month. *It pays to advertise in the Canadian Druggist.*

Decalcifying and Desilicating Sponges.

Dr. E. Rousseau decalcifies sponges which contain much lime salts, such as *Leuconia*, *Leucandra*, *Sycon*, etc., by first hardening and then imbedding in celloidin. The imbedded pieces (not more than 2 Cm. in length) are then immersed for from 12 to 24 hours in a mixture of 15-40 parts nitric acid of sp. gr. 1.4, and 100 parts of 85 per cent. alcohol, and are then transferred to 85 per cent. alcohol containing some precipitated calcium carbonate until every trace of acid is removed. Sections are then made in alcohol of the same strength. For desilication the sponge is treated with fluoric acid after imbedding in celloidin, as in the previous method. One of the small imbedded pieces is then placed in a caoutchouc capsule having a lid and containing at least 50 C.c. of alcohol. To this is added commercial hydrofluoric acid drop by drop up to 20 or 30 drops, according to the amount of silica in the sponge. The desilication takes from one to two days. The pieces are then placed in 85 per cent. alcohol containing some lithium carbonate. As a precaution all the vessels and instruments used must be covered with caoutchouc or paraffin. By this process very good sections may be obtained of *Tethyx*, *Suberites*, *Thenia*, *Glodia*, *Reniera*, etc.—*Zeits. fur Angew. Mikros., Phar. Journal.*

CAPTOL.—This is a condensation product of chloral and tannin, a brownish powder, recommended as an antiseptic astringent in the treatment of falling of the hair due to seborrhea.

British Columbia Notes.

And now there is a breathing spell. The almost stampede to the much-talked-of Klondike mines during the last three months has subsided for a time and we have now leisure to look back and marvel at the credulity of mankind. Just what the Canadian Yukon has in store for us it is not possible at this moment to estimate; in fact reports from the various mining camps are so varied—so contradictory—that at times one even wonders whether the old story of the Cariboo is to be retold with its miseries intensified. If only the truth could be arrived at; if men would not allow their imagination to take possession of their sounder judgment, what a different complexion would be put upon things! That there is gold in the Klondike need not be told here, but it will certainly be got only by much suffering, hard toiling and perhaps after bitter disappointments.

Such a city as Victoria has been, and as Vancouver has been this spring! The usual trade has been entirely pushed to the background, and *miners' wants* have had first place. The drug store windows presented an appearance that perhaps has never been equalled in all their history, even in this mining province; nothing but thick chamois vests, medicine chests, pocket microscopes, etc., etc. And there has been quite a big business done, too, although there has been some great awakening as to what is really required in that cold, cold country. Saccharin is among one of the articles that is not popular with intending miners. The majority prefer to take sugar, and although the extra weight is a serious consideration they generally end by taking it. It has been noticed, too, that many have taken small quantities of lime-juice tablets instead of citric acid, though this latter article has been so cut down in price by the retailers that it is hardly worth handling. Generally speaking the prospective miner thinks he knows what drugs he wants. He has been told by a friend who is in the drug business, or his family physician has furnished him with a list, and consequently he comes armed and determined to have what he wants or nothing. We have met many such, and, though we have used some persuasion and probably succeeded in a measure in modifying the list, it has been pitiful to see what a lot of rubbish these men will persist in hampering themselves with. A large number will not bother with a

case at all, but take a few useful drugs packed in their outfit. Sensible men! How different to those who bring all the way from London, Eng., a £5 medicine chest and want to throw it over the rocks before half way.

The streets of these cities have looked the busiest for years during these past few months. Men of all nations, dressed in every conceivable style of arctic apparel, have rushed from store to store getting and comparing prices. And every man has some brilliant scheme (all his own) for making money.

There was one party we met who were tramping the city over pricing hot water bags. For what purpose think you? It was their intention to fill the bags with liquor, and each man of the party would pack one on his back and another on his chest *under his clothing*, and so avoid the customs' officers. That was the scheme, but whether it was ever carried out we cannot say, nor do we know if the bags were bought.

Mosquito remedies by the thousand. Every old miner knows a sure preventive against the pests, and certain it is that many will lose money in speculating with these recipes.

As we said at the beginning "there is a breathing spell now;" but there is every prospect that what business has been done is nothing to what will follow. But here let it be said that "druggists" have gone up in great numbers to the Klondike. Every party of any size had either an M.D. or a druggist with them, and what these poor fellows will do when they arrive is beyond our ability to say. So far the greater number have been American physicians and druggists; Canadians and English have wisely held back, for there is very little for them in that healthy climate.

Enquiries have reached the city as to the prospects of obtaining situations in the Province, as so many have been reported as leaving or left. The fact is that every position is filled as soon as it is vacated without any difficulty, and there is no better opportunity now for a druggist to open out, or a drug clerk to get employment than there was a year ago.

BORON ALLIED TO DIAMOND.—Crystalline boron, says the Chemical News, is very closely analogous to diamond—i.e., crystalline carbon. It has the lustre, the high refractive power of the diamond, with which mineral it also competes in hardness.