

process, which had been used by the writer, for many years, and with the most satisfactory results. To produce the quantity ordered in the P. B., iron wire, cleaned with sand paper, and cut into $\frac{7}{8}$ inch lengths, is boiled with the iodine and water (4 oz.) until the iodine color has disappeared; the solution is then filtered into an evaporating basin containing the requisite amount of sugar, in coarse powder. As the filtration proceeds, heat is applied, and when all the solution has passed through, the whole is brought to the boiling point as quickly as possible, and the heat withdrawn; when cool, the required measure is made up with water.

During the discussion which ensued, after the reading of the papers:

"Dr. Redwood remarked that in the discussion of this subject two statements had been made; one to the effect that the syrup, if carefully made according to the instructions of the Pharmacopoeia, could not be kept for any length of time without change of colour taking place, which generally commenced on the surface, whilst, on the other hand, it was said by other gentlemen that, preparing the syrup in the same way, they never failed in keeping it for any reasonable time up to five or six months without any change of colour taking place. He had been in the habit of making and keeping this syrup for a great number of years, and his experience was that if properly made and preserved, it could be kept for several years. He had samples of syrup of iodide of iron made without any extraordinary precautions, which had been kept for six years or more, without any change of colour taking place. He had requested the curator to bring down two specimens from the Museum, both of which had certainly been made for above a year, one he believed for three or four years. They had been kept in ordinary white stoppered bottles, without any particular precaution, and as they could see, no discoloration had taken place. Indeed, he never expected it would. At the same time, cases had come under his notice where the syrup had undergone a change in colour, and that very soon; but these were cases in which he had never been able to satisfy himself that the proper care had been exercised, and he believed—though he had no positive proof of the fact—that when the syrup speedily underwent a change of colour, it arose from one of the following causes,—either that inferior sugar was used or an insufficient quantity, or that the syrup, after it was made, had been exposed to an impure atmosphere. Generally speaking, he believed the cause of failure lay in the sugar, for a great deal of refined sugar of commerce was far from being pure. He believed that if syrup were made with the purest refined sugar it would keep perfectly well if it met with no atmospheric contamination afterwards. Any one who had any experience in a laboratory was aware that the atmosphere was impure; sometimes there were ammoniacal vapors floating about, and sometimes the fumes of nitric acid, and if these had access to so delicate a substance as syrup of iodide of iron, they could easily understand that decomposition would take place. He was desirous of throwing out these suggestions for verification, for, as he had said, he was not

able at present to demonstrate the fact that the discoloration took place in this way, but if it were so, it would account for the discrepancies in the experience of different operators. The impurities he referred to were those which arose from the presence of the remains of the materials used in refining the sugar. Sometimes there were traces of lime, or salts of lime, or albuminous matter; there were great differences in different varieties of sugar in this respect. He should select a sugar that would form a clear and transparent solution, and if it would not, it should be clarified before using for such a purpose. The French were very particular, in making syrups, to well clarify their syrup before using it, although they used refined sugar, not taking it for granted that the sugar was entirely free from foreign matter, as such was rarely the case."

It was formerly thought that the list of poisons attached to the Pharmacy Act of Great Britain, would give rise to much annoyance in trade, if the restrictions attending their sale were carried faithfully into effect. It was also urged that the list embraced many substances over which druggists had, justly, no control, and that if not to be altogether disregarded it would have to be curtailed. The experience of nearly two years has proved these anticipations to be groundless, and that if anything, the schedule was not full enough. In the *Gazette* of Dec. 21st, we notice that a number of additions have been made, comprising preparations of prussic acid, preparations of cyanide of potassium and of all metallic cyanides, preparations of strychnine, preparations of atropine, preparations of corrosive sublimate, preparations of morphine, red oxide of mercury (commonly known as red precipitate of mercury), ammoniated mercury (commonly known as white precipitate of mercury). Every compound containing any poison within the meaning of the "Pharmacy Act, 1868," when prepared or sold for the destruction of vermin; the tincture and all vesicating liquid preparations of cantharides,—ought to be deemed poisons within the meaning of the "Pharmacy Act, 1868;" and also that each of the following articles, viz:—

Preparations of prussic acid, preparations of cyanide of potassium and of all metallic cyanides, preparations of strychnine, preparations of atropine,—ought to be deemed a poison in the first part of the Schedule A to said "Pharmacy Act, 1868."

APPLICANTS for membership are reminded that their applications must be endorsed by a member of the Society, to whom they are personally known, as *bona fide* druggists, or assistants. This precaution is necessary from the fact that a number of requests have been received, from parties of small, and rather questionable standing, and still more ques-

tionable qualifications, who desired to become members, merely to evade the requirements of the coming Act.

It appears that to "minister to a mind diseased" is quite within the scope of medicine. According to Dr. Lisle, (Comptes Rendus) arsenious acid, in even apparently hopeless cases of mental derangement, restores about sixty per cent. to health; of course some attention must be paid to the dose.

THE attention of members in arrear is directed to the resolution of the Society, passed at last meeting, by which it was determined that after the present notification, this *Journal* will be discontinued to those whose fees to the Society are six months over due, if such fees are not remitted within the course of one month, from date. We trust our friends will bear this in mind. All monies due to the Society, should be forwarded to

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"A Drop too much."

A writer in the *Pall Mall Gazette* thus gives vent to his outraged feelings:

"Before Mr. Calcraft is superannuated, and capital punishment is abolished, it would be almost worth while to hang one or two druggists. The execution of a respectable tradesman, and possibly a vestryman, would, of course, be a painful affair, and cause some sensation, but there can be no doubt it would save many lives in the long run. As a general rule, people incur no great danger when they send a prescription to a chemist to have it "make up," the deadly effect of the draught is neutralized by the adulteration of the drugs with which it is compounded; but occasionally we fall into the hands of a conscientious or careless chemist, and then there is little or no hope for the sufferer. Two inquests are reported in yesterday's papers which tell their own tale, and a very sad one it is in each case. In one, an inquest was held on a child three weeks old. The child was ill and sleepless. The mother obtained a sleeping draught from the chemist and gave it to the child, who was sleepless no more—it fell asleep, never to wake again in a world of misery and muddle. A surgeon stated that the child died from congestion of the brain, accelerated by an overdose of narcotic poison. In the other case, a child ten weeks old was afflicted with a cough. A druggist's assistant sold to the mother some "inf" in a bottle, desiring her to give the child twelve drops three or four times a day. At the end of the bottle the child was dead. The coroner said that he could not help thinking that poor people had no idea what a drop was, and if we may judge from the powerful effects produced on many of them by a drop of gin, the coroner's observation was probably correct. He added that it was surprising that druggists had no better sense than to give a medicine containing poison to be administered in drops. The jury returned