

## Pharmacy Abroad.

**CANTONAL PHARMACIES IN SWITZERLAND.**—The Continental pharmacist is notoriously a thorn in the side of the socialist body, probably as much on account of his greater or smaller measure of official recognition of his position as because of the widely-spread popular notion that the Apotheker piles up enormous gains out of the prescriptions. Some five years ago the Government of the Swiss Canton of Basel, in obedience to the socialistic impulse, actually brought in a Bill for the rendering by the State of medical and pharmaceutical assistance. The pharmaceutical requirements of the citizens were to be supplied by a central pharmacy with five branches, where remedies would be obtainable free of charge. No compensation was to be given to existing pharmacies. The Bill was rejected by the "referendum" or plebiscite of the Basel citizens, but shortly afterwards a project for compulsory sick and accident insurance was accepted by a large majority, and a commission of 40 members was appointed by the Federal Council to draft a Bill. This commission has recently commenced its labors. The Government of the Canton of Aargau is now about to propose the establishment of State Pharmacies. Before these can be provided, however, the Bill will have to be sanctioned by the popular vote of the Canton. *Chemist and Druggist.*

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**FOREIGN PHARMACISTS** cannot exercise their profession in France without having the French diploma. It is in the power of the Minister of Instruction to dispense with some of the necessary examinations. Hospital apothecaries are allowed to practice during an epidemic; this authorization holds good for three months. A pharmacist can only have one shop, and he must inhabit the locality where he carries on his business. After the death of a pharmacist the heirs can carry on the business for a year, provided another pharmacist is placed in charge. It is forbidden to a medical man to have any understanding with a pharmacist concerning the sale of drugs. In those localities where there is not a pharmacist the medical man can supply his patients with medicine. In order to be prepared for urgent cases, medical men, even where there are one or two pharmacists, can keep certain drugs, which will be mentioned in a list drawn up by the authorities. In every department there will be an inspector pharmacist. This body of pharmaceutical inspectors will be chosen by the *Comité Consultatif d'Hygiène*, and ratified by Government.—*American Druggist.*

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**U. S. NAVAL APOTHECARIES.**—Hitherto it has been a reflection upon the organization of this service that the dispenserships could be filled by anybody who had influence enough to get a berth. Whether they had a pharmaceutical qualification

or not did not matter. This anomalous condition is now to be put an end to, regulations having been issued which require the candidate for an appointment must be a graduate of some recognized college of pharmacy and must be between 21 and 28 years of age. Apothecaries for duty on cruising vessels will be enlisted for three years' general service, and will receive the benefits of honorable discharge and continuous service. Those for duty on receiving and on stationary ships, or for duty on vessels of the Fish Commission, will be enlisted for one year's special service; those for duty on vessels of the Coast Survey will be enlisted for the cruise, not to exceed five years. There will be an examination in general subjects, such as arithmetic, orthography, grammar, geography, and United States history. The examination in professional subjects will require a knowledge of materia medica, pharmacy, chemistry, and toxicology.—*Amer. Druggist.*

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**PHARMACY AT THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.**—The first issue of *The Medical and Pharmacy Register* of the Cape of Good Hope has just been published under the joint direction of the Colonial Medical Council and the Colonial Pharmacy Board, constituted under the Medical and Pharmacy Act, 1891. The *Register* contains the full text of this Act and the rules and regulations framed under it; together with reports of the Medical Council and Pharmacy Board for 1892; and lists corrected up to June 30 last, of licensed medical practitioners, dentists, chemists and druggists, certificated midwives, and trained nurses. The Colonial Pharmacy Board consists of a president, secretary and five other members. Two of the members are nominated by the Governor of the Colony, one is deputed by the Colonial Medical Council, and three are elected by the chemists and druggists of the Colony, one of the present elected members being Mr. W. K. Mager, who holds a British qualification, and will be remembered as a visitor to this country during the past summer. There appears to be only one grade—that of chemists and druggists—recognized in the Colony, and the certificates of the Pharmaceutical Societies of Great Britain and of Ireland are accepted by the Board as sufficient evidence of the competency of any person holding the same to practise as a chemist and druggist in the Colony, without further examination.

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**RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF MORPHINE IN HONGKONG.**—An ordinance has been enacted by the Governor of Hongkong, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council, for the purpose of suppressing the practice, widely prevalent in the Colony, of injecting morphine. It prohibits the administration by injection of morphine or its salts, except on the prescription of a duly qualified medical man, the onus of proving the exception lying on the person administering the injection,

and the penalty, on conviction of an offence, being a fine not exceeding fifty dollars or imprisonment, with or without hard labor, for a period not exceeding two months. A further offence, liable to similar penalties, consists in furnishing morphine or its salts, or solutions of the same, to any person except a duly qualified medical practitioner or a chemist and druggist, the onus of proof of the exception again resting with the person charged with the offence, whilst the section does not apply to the furnishing of morphine for the purpose of *bona fide* exportation. Constables or Officers of the Police, duly authorized by warrant of any Justice of the Peace, are permitted to break into any place which the said Justice shall have reasonable grounds to suspect and believe to be a place kept or used for the injection of morphine, contrary to the provisions of the Ordinance, and to arrest any persons found in the place suspected of an offence, whilst seizing all morphine, hypodermic syringes, and other appliances that may be found, capable of being used for the injection of morphine. These, on conviction of the offender, are directed to be forfeited.—*Phar. Journal.*

### Poisoning by Misadventure.

The *British Medical Journal* says:—Setting aside the deaths attributed to chloroform, the great majority of the fatalities included in this dismal catalogue were doubtless due to the fact that the poison was given or taken out of the wrong bottle. The way to prevent this is obvious, and has been pointed out over and over again by Mr. Ernest Hart in the *Journal*, and an appeal, hitherto fruitless, has been made by him officially to the Pharmaceutical Society. All poisons should be sent out in bottles of a kind that will automatically warn the most careless handler by appealing sharply to his sense of touch. The poison label, though useful as a danger signal, is insufficient by itself, even if it were in all cases compulsory, which is not the case with regard to remedies prescribed by qualified medical practitioners. The luminous label which has been proposed, however efficient in the night, would be useless in the day. All bottles containing poisons should be made of fluted glass, and provided with screw stoppers. The Pharmaceutical Society has the power to make the use of such precautions compulsory on all chemists, and it is not too much to say that if, in the face of the facts we have brought forward, it now fails to use this power, it will be guilty of a grave neglect of its public duty.

**SALACETOL IN DIARRHŒA.**—Contagious diarrhœa has been treated successfully by Bourget with salacetol in doses of from 2 to 3 grams dissolved in 30 grams castor oil. It should be given in the morning on an empty stomach, and repeated, if necessary, for two or three mornings. Bourget considers 0.5 gram. or even more, a safe daily dose for a child 1 year of age.—*Phar. Zeit.*