

Miscellaneous.

The Proteid Iron Preparations of the National Formulary, or the N. F. Propaganda, with some Queries and Conclusions.

When we have the temerity to state that some of the pharmacopeial and most of the National Formulary preparations intended as *substitutes* for well-known standard remedies are not "just as good" as the originals, that in fact some of these imitations are nasty, ill-tasting and ill-smelling concoctions (and that it is, therefore, wicked to mislead the physician and the pharmacist—the former to prescribe and the latter to dispense these substitutes), we are accused by some narrow-minded druggists, and some misguided or ignorant doctors, of bias. To assure our accusers that we are as free from bias as any living human can be, and that our only misfortune is that we have a penchant for telling the truth, regardless of consequences, would be a waste of time. Let us, therefore, see what pharmacists themselves—and real pharmacists with laboratory facilities—have to say about some of the National Formulary preparations.

Prof. W. H. Harrison, of the Northwestern University School of Pharmacy, Chicago, read a paper before the Chicago Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association entitled "Notes on Proteid Iron Solutions." The paper appears in the *American Journal of Pharmacy* for April, and we advise every honest physician and pharmacist to read it there in its entirety. An abstract of it also appears in the *A. Ph. A. Bulletin* for May. Dr. Harrison considers the three proteid iron preparations of the National Formulary: *Liquor Ferri Peptonati*, *Liquor Ferri Peptonati cum Mangano*, and *Liquor Ferri Albuminati*. Of the first Dr. Harrison has the following to say :

LIQUOR FERRI PEPTONATI.

"The present National Formulary formula yields a product which is a thick red-brown liquid, with a very *disagreeable gluey** odor. It is clear in neither reflected nor transmitted light, and of such a colloidal nature as to render filtration impossible even under greatly increased pressure. The taste is

* Italics are ours thruout.