reliable powders, and, in 1873, acquired our present mill. The industry requires considerable capital and experience, and generally the powders sold in Canada are as good as can be

made. Let us briefly consider

1. Why drugs are powdered, instead of masticated by nature's mills—the teeth; 2. How they are powdered; 3. How powders should be kept; 4. How adulteration may be de-

1. Drugs are powdered because in that form 1. Drugs are powdered because in that form they offer an infinitely greater surface to the action of solvents. It is not material whether a drug is applied to a sore or wound, taken by the mouth, or extracted by some menstruum, solution to a greater or less extent must take place precedent to medicinal action.

Place precedent to medicinal action.

2. Practically, powdering is now done by powder mills, operated by men who make it their sole occupation. So much has this become the rule that we have had a quarter of a pound of guarana returned, which was not powdered. A moment's thought will show that it could have been powdered by hand in the time required to write a letter about the matter.

matter.

The mills in use are adapted to the differing structure of the drugs to be operated upon, varying in action, weight, speed and power. Out of ten we use, only two are alike. There are mills of the ordinary pattern used in grain grinding, iron mills, for breaking and cutting, crushing rolls, and stamping mills.

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, Oct. 14th, 1885.

The share market is considerably stronger than a week ago, and the "bull" element is in the ascendency. Transactions are more numerous at following rates for leading stocks: Bank of Montreal, 203 to 204; Toronto, 189; Merchants, 116 to $116\frac{1}{2}$; Commerce, $127\frac{1}{2}$ to 128; Richelieu Nav. 59½; Gas, 189 to 191. Money rates 3 per cent. for call loans, 6 to 7 per cent. for regular discounts.

General trade has a tendency to quietness and collections are only fair. The weather has been favorable to the farmers, and fall plowing has been actively prosecuted in this district.

Ashes.—The market has ruled quiet since Ashes.—Ine market has ruled quiet since last report, receipts being very light, and shipments also small. No. 1 pots quote at \$3.65 to \$3.370; seconds \$3.40 with few transactions; pearls \$5.00 nominally, with no recent sales. Stock in store at date 1,065 pots, 133 pearls.

DRY Goods.—Not much new to report in this line. Travellers in Eastern Ontario and Que-bec report fair orders, but in the West are doing less. The larger city retail houses are busy, but the suburban trade is suffering from the effects of the reigning epidemic. Some houses report remittances from some sections as improved a little, but in butter districts the poor market for this commodity effects cal poor market for this commodity affects col-

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—An advance is an-DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—An advance is announced in quinine, which we note in quotations below; opium is also firmer; other lines show no change. Sorting business is fair, with payments only middling. We quote: Sal Soda, \$1 to \$1.10 per 100 lbs., Bi-Carb Soda, \$2.50 to \$2.60; Soda Ash, \$1.65 to \$1.75. Bi-chromate of Potash, per 100 lbs., \$8.00 to \$9.00; Borax, refined, 11 to 12½c.; Cream Tartar crystals, 32 to 35c.; do., ground, 37 to 38c.; Tartaric Acid crystals, 52½ to 55c.; do., powder, 55 to 58c. per 1.; Caustic Soda, white, \$2.40 to \$2.60; Sugar of Lead, 9 to 11c.; Bleaching Powder, \$2.25 to \$2.75 according to lot; Alum 1.65c. to \$1.80; Copporas, per 100 lbs., \$1.00; Flowers Sulphur, per 100 lbs., \$2.75 to \$3.00; Roll Sulphur, \$2.40 to \$2.60; Sulphate of Coppor, \$5.00 to \$5.75; Epsom Salts, \$1.25 to \$1.40; Saltpetre, \$9.00 to \$9.50; German Quinine, \$1.05 to \$1.10; American do., \$1.05 to \$1.10 Howard's quinine, \$1.20 to 1.25; opium, \$4.00 to \$4.25; Morphia, \$1.80 to \$1.90; Gum Arabic sorts, 40 to 45c.; White, 55 to 70c.; Carbolic acid, 40 to 60c.: Iodide Potassium, \$4.25 to \$4.50 per lb.; Iodine, \$5.00 to \$5.50; Iodoform, \$7.50 to \$8.00. nounced in quinine, which we note in quota-\$8.00.

FISH.—Receipts of Labrador herrings to date are about 25,000 brls., and further cargoes yet to come. Prices are lower, several small carto come. Prices are lower, several small cargoes have sold at \$3.25, and a fraction under. We quote Labrador \$3.25; Cape Bretons, none in market; Nova Scotia Shore, none; Gaspe Cod, \$3.50 to \$3.75; Halifax Cured, \$3.25 to \$3.50; Green No. 1, \$3.75 to \$4.00; North Shore Salmon, \$11, \$10 and \$8.50; British Columbia, \$9.00 to \$9.25.

Furs.—As yet there is nothing offering in raw furs, and there is no prospect of much early trade being done. Traders are advised raw furs, and there is no prospect of index early trade being done. Traders are advised to be cautious in the buying of early caught skins as prices for such will be very low. The annual sale of salted seal skins takes place in London the middle of November, and the quality it is believed will be very good.

GROCERIES.—While there is no "boom" in this

line, there is a fair trade doing, and as noticeable features there are a good many enquiries from Western jobbing centres. Remittances as a whole are satisfactory. Sugars are off an as a whole are satisfactory. Sugars are on an eighth since last writing; granulated being now 6½c. at refinery. Yellows proportionately lower. There is no change in Syrups, which are not plentiful. Molasses has got mostly are not plentiful. Molasses has got mostly into hands of one Quebec operator, and is advanced a cent, 29c. being now asked for wholesale lots. In Japan teas all low grades are very firm, and much wanted, local market pretty bare, and there is nothing in New York 1976 or 20 cents. Cable quotations from Japan under 20 cents. Cable quotations from Japan under date October 12th are for fine \$23 per picul good medium \$21.00; medium \$19.00; good common \$17.00; common \$15.00. In dried fruits an advance of 2/-a cwt. may be quoted all round. Pretty reliable information as to all round. Pretty reliable information as to the crop is to the effect that Valencia raisins are a short crop; currants good quality, but short crop; Malaga fruit, a light crop and prices will be high. All the new Valencias that have come to hand so far have been taken that have come to hand so far have been taken at \$\frac{1}{2}c.\$; of currants, only some fancy lots are yet to hand; Sultanas are in good supply at 6\frac{1}{2} to 7c. and are good value. Rice, \$3.25 to 3.35; fine Patna, 4\frac{1}{2}c. In Spices, pepper continues at 17\frac{1}{2} to 18c., other lines as before. New tomatoes, \$1.10 to 1.20 a dozen; sardines, 10% to 11c., inferior Portuguese pack are selling

at 9c.; lobsters, \$6.00 to 6.20 a case.

LEATHER AND SHOES.—Trade in the leather line is quiet, and shoe travellers on their sorting trip are not doing more than fairly. Leather stocks however show no accumulation Leather stocks however show no accumulation and prices rule steady. There have not been many recent shipments to England of late, and altogether it would seem as if the production was curtailed. We quote:—Spanish sole B.A. No. 1, 24 to 27c.; ditto, No. 2 B. A. 21 to 24c.; No. 1, Ordinary Spanish, 24 to 25c.; No. 2, ditto, 22 to 23c.; No. 1 China, 23 to 24c.; No. 2, 22 to 23c.; ditto, Buffalo Sole, No. 1, 21 to 23c.; ditto, No. 2, 19½ to 21c.; Hemlock Slaughter, No. 1, 25 to 27c.; oak sole, 45 to 50c.; Waxed Upper, light and medium, 33 to 39c.; ditto, heavy, 32 to 36c.; Grained, 34 to 37c.; heavy, 32 to 36c.; Grained, 34 to 37c.; Splits, large, 22 to 28c.; ditto, small, 16 to 24c.; Calf-splits, 28 to 32c.; Calfskins, (35 to 46 lbs.), 70 to 80c.; Imitation French Calfskins, 80 to 85c.; Russet Sheepskin Linings, 30 to 40c.; Harness, 24 to 33c.; Buffed Cow, 12½ to 16c.; Pebbled Cow, 11 to 15c.; Rough, 23 to 28c.; Russet and Bridle, 45 to 55c.

METALS AND HARDWARE.—Business in these lines is if anything quieter. The local market for pig iron is rather firmer, owing to light stocks and dearer freights; Scotch warrants are cabled at 42/8d., makers' brands unchanged. Tin plates at home are much firmer, prices having advanced 6d. to 9d. a box; there has been no change locally as yet, but it is thought prices must go up. The home market for finished iron is also firmer, but local quotations are still \$1.621 to \$1.65, with car-lots sometimes at \$1.60; copper dull but steady; tin and lead unchanged. We quote:—Gartsherrie and Summerlee \$16.50 to \$17; Langloan, and Coltess, \$17 to \$17.50; Shott, \$17 to \$00.00; Eglinton and Dalmellington, \$16.00; Calder, \$16.50 to \$17; Hematite, \$17 to \$20; Siemens, No. 1, \$17.50 to \$00; Bar Iron, \$1.62\frac{1}{2}\$ to \$1.65; Best Refined, \$1.90; Siemens bar, \$2.10: Canada Plates, Blaina \$2.40; Penn &c. \$2.50. Tin Plates Bradley Charcoal, \$5.75 to \$6.00; Charcoal I.C., \$4.35 to \$4.75; do I.X., \$6 to \$6.25; Coke I.C., \$3.75 to \$4; Galvanized sheets. No. 28, 5½c to 7c, according to brand: Tinned Sheets, coke, No. 24, 6½c: No. 26, 7c, the usual extra for large sizes. Hoops and Bands, per 100 lbs., \$1.90 to \$2; Boiler Plate, per \$100 lbs. Stafford-

shire, \$2.25 to \$0.00; Common Sheet iron, \$2.00 to \$2.10; Steel Boiler Plate, \$2.50 to \$2.75; heads, \$4; Russian Sheet Iron, 10½ to 11c. Lead, per 100 lbs.:—Pig, \$3.50 to \$4: Sheet, \$4 to \$4.25: Shot, \$6 to \$6.50; best cast steel, 11c to 13c, firm; Spring, \$2.75 to \$3.00; Tire \$2.50 to \$2.75; Sleigh shoe, \$2 to \$2.25; Round \$2.50 to \$2.75,; Sieigrishoe, \$2.00 \$2.25; Rodhi Machinery Steel, 3½ to 3½c.per lb.; Ingot tin, 23c. to 24c; Bar Tin, 26c; Ingot Copper, 12½ to 14c; Sheet Zinc, \$4.50 to \$5.00; Spelter, \$4 to \$4.50; Bright Iron Wire, Nos. 0 to 6, \$2.75 per 100

OILS AND PAINTS.—A cable just to hand announces another advance and it is calculated raw would cost 63c. to lay down at present prices in England but 62 and 65c. seem still the local prices for raw and boiled respectively; turpentine, 64 to 65c.; castor firmer at 8½ to 9c.; olive as before; Nfid. cod oil, none coming in and 55c. asked; Gaspe do. 52½c.; steam refined seal 49 to 50c. in lots, some has been sold fined seal 49 to 50c. in lots, some has been sold to arrive at 48½c. in quantity. Leads and colors are unchanged. We quote:—Leads (genuine and first-class brands only) \$6 to \$6.25; No. 1, \$5.50; No. 2, \$5.00; No. 3, \$4.50 to \$4.75. Dry white lead, 5½c.; red, do. 4½ to 4½c. These prices for round lots, London washed whiting, 50 to 60c.; Paris white, \$1.25; Cookson's venetian red \$1.75, other brands venetian red \$1.50 to \$1.60; Yellow ochre, \$1.50; Spruce ochre, \$2 Provisions.—In butter there is no improve-

ment, and the demand is confined to city job-bing transactions. We quote creamery 19½ to bing transactions. Morrisburg 12 to 16c.; Western 11 to 14c. Cheese is stronger under the reported advance on England, and quotations are higher. We quote September 9½ to 10c.; finest August 8½ to 9c.; fine July 6½ to 7½c. Eggs are firm at 17 to 18c. for fresh. Pork quotations are un-

changed.
SAIT.—There is the regular current trade doing; we quote elevens 49 to 50c. ex-wharf, 55c., ex-store; twelves 47 to 49c. ex-wharf; factory-filled \$1.10 to \$1.15; Ashtons and Eureka \$2.40; Turks Island 30c. per bushel; rock salt 50c. per cwt.. special quotations for ton lots.

Woon.—The demand is still good for most lines; fleece is a little harder to get locally, of pulled there is sufficient to meet the enquiry, but no surplus. We quote: Canadian A supers 27 to 28c.; B ditto 22 to 23c.; unassorted 21 to 22c.; black 20 to 21c.; cape 16 to 18c.; no Australian in the market; fleece 20 to 22c.

TORONTO MARKETS.

TORONTO, Oct. 15th, 1885.

The "Bull" element has had complete control of the market, and the decline of a fortnight ago has not only been recovered but in most cases an additional advance has to be recorded.

As usual, Bank of Montreal shares led the rise, buyers offering 2031, a gain of 43, closely followed by Toronto, which appreciated 41/2, Merchants Bank improved 23, Commerce 2, Federal 11, Dominion 11 and Ontario 1.

British America Assurance shares were strong, selling at 80 to 83, and closing 79 bid and 85 asked, about 8% better. Western was dealt in at par, but buyers are now offering 102½ with 105¾ asked. Dominion Telegraph was fairly active at 871, and Canada North-West land remains at about the old figures.

Canada Landed Credit was a fraction weaker, selling at 123 to 1221, but London and Can-

er, selling at 123 to 122½, but London and Canadian Loan decidedly strong and active since last meeting on Wednesday, closing at a rise of 2%, with 143 to 143½ as closing rates.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—Trade, in the experience of some city houses, is very good while reports from others show a very quiet not to say dull condition of things. In the case of the latter it scores that the majority of country dealers condition of things. In the case of the latter it seems that the majority of country dealers ordered early and travellers now out are merely filling gaps with sorting-up goods. The present rainy and muddy weather should assist this trade. There are complaints about tardy remittances.

DRIGGS AND CHEMICALS.—Country trade in

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—Country trade in general drugs is said to be very good, travellers now out having sent in some very respectable orders. The same cannot be said of the city orders. The same cannot be said of the city trade which is quiet if we except a brisk demand for vaccine points and disinfectants,