

something that will take the taste away?" she inquired. "Certainly, Miss," the druggist assured her. "Please sit down. Very tiring weather," he continued, after an interval. "Won't you refresh yourself with a saline drink whilst you're waiting?" By this time, quite gone on the polite young man, the damsel drank the refreshing liquid he offered, and then suggested that if the oil was ready she had better depart. "The oil?" queried the assistant, chuckling loudly. "Why, you've just taken it." "What!" cried the girl, with sundry unprintable remarks. "Why, you idiot, I wanted the oil for my little brother. I'm going to a ball to-night."

Correspondence.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for the opinions of correspondents. Correspondents must in all cases send name and address, not necessarily for publication.

Lady Graduates at Montreal College.

EDITOR CANADIAN DRUGGIST:

SIR,—Amongst the Montreal notes in your last issue I find a paragraph quoted from *The Canadian Pharmaceutical Journal* which is not quite correct. This paragraph refers to lady students attending the Montreal College of Pharmacy. The facts are as follows: Miss Sarah A. Tyndale, of Montreal, the first lady student, attended the session of 1889 and 1890, being also the first lady passing the preliminary examination of the Pharmaceutical Association of the Province of Quebec. Since that time six other young ladies have passed this examination, four of whom are at present in drug stores studying pharmacy, but have not yet taken their lecture courses, with the exception of Miss A. A. Prevost, of Sorel, P.Q., who is now taking the full course of the college. I may say, in this connection, that ladies are not debarred, by either the Pharmaceutical Association or the Montreal College of Pharmacy, from taking up the study of pharmacy or serving in a drug store, provided they comply with the requirements of the Quebec Pharmacy Act.

Yours truly,

E. Muir,

Sec.-Registrar.

Montreal, Jan. 27th, 1897.

Wholesale Drug and Proprietary
Medicine Dealers' Association.

The regular meeting of this association was held in Toronto, January 19th and 20th, with a good attendance of its members.

The president, Mr. John Henderson, in the chair, and Mr. Wm. Elliot acting as chairman *pro tem*. The greater part of the business transacted was of a routine character. The matter of cheaper alcohol was brought up and a motion adopted to memorialize the government in reference to it.

The president of the Ontario Society of Retail Druggists was in attendance, and explained the reasons which prompted sending the recent circular to the wholesale trade.

Considerable discussion was indulged in generally condemnatory of the tone of the circular, but matters were satisfactorily adjusted by the apology of the author and a promise not to offend any more.

Personally we are of opinion that if more publicity was given to those parts of the proceedings which intimately affect trade and thereby acquaint the drug trade generally with the obstacles that stand in the way of always meeting the views of the retailers, a greater degree of harmony would exist and fewer suspicions would be aroused.

Commercial Source of Licorice Root.

By H. N. RITTENHOUSE.

While the commercial varieties of licorice root are well known to importers of the article, the qualities, values, and sources of the supply are not so well known to the pharmacist as they should be, if any importance is to be attached to accurately dispensing either the root itself or its preparations.

Previous to the year 1870 the principal source from which the United States obtained its supplies was Spain. Since then the consumption in the United States has increased so much that the Spanish root has been utterly inadequate to equal the demand. Other countries have since then come into the market, and now furnish the greater part of the market requirements. These countries are Southern Russia, Asia Minor (chiefly the province of Anatolia), and Syria, and about in the order above named as to quantity, Russia being the largest exporter and Syria the smallest. Licorice root from any of the above-named sources, when good and sound, should be acceptable to the pharmacist for his uses, but it is not always good and sound in a proper sense as found in commerce.

Spanish root is gathered so closely and skilfully sorted and packed that much of it consists of fine, immature, fibrous roots, which, while they may be called licorice root, are practically worthless as such for the purposes for which licorice root is used, and besides are fifty per cent. higher in price than the other varieties; yet prejudice and perhaps ignorance on the part of some buyers still demand Spanish root and Spanish extract. The Spanish root is sweeter and with less acidity than the other varieties, and if Spanish root was what it once was in mature condition when found in the market the preference above noted might be justified; but, as it actually is, this prejudice is based on its ancient reputation, and is now unwarranted. The close cropping and limited and practically exhausted fields of Spain are the causes of this.

Turning now to Russia, with its new and almost unlimited fields, as yet but lightly worked (exports from Russia only

began in 1887), we find a mature root, rich in glycyrrhizin and extractive, much better suited for commercial purposes because better and cheaper than Spanish root, the sole objection to it being in the taste, which, in addition to the usual sweetness of Spanish root, has a slight acidity, which is really not objectionable, but gives the impression of being "stronger."

Anatolian root ranks between Spanish and Russian in the quality of sweetness (or absence of bitterness). In commerce no attention is paid to the botanical varieties of licorice root, and from the root alone it is quite impossible to determine its true botanical origin, the usual designations being from the countries of growth, as Spanish, Russian, Anatolian, etc.; though all varieties, except Spanish, are often classified as "Greek root," it must be remembered, too, that all licorice root of commerce is wild root, none being cultivated.

The variety in the market known as "selected" licorice root and put up in small bundles was formerly selected from Spanish sources, but as demand increased and supply diminished other varieties having the requisite straightness and thickness were mixed with the Spanish, until now "selected root" consists of root from any and all sources if of the proper quality—straight, sound—and of the requisite length and thickness.

Peeled Russian root may now be prepared in Russia. I know of no reason why it should not be, but Syria formerly prepared "peeled" root for shipment to Europe, some of which found its way into the market as "peeled Russian." Any variety might be peeled as well as Russian and be just as good. It would be a satisfaction, however, to have things called by their correct names and pay for them accordingly. Peeled "Russian root" has always commanded a good price, doubtless partly on account of the cost of the labor of peeling and careful drying; but if so much esteemed when peeled, why is it not just as much esteemed unpeeled as Spanish or any other variety unpeeled? Besides being much cheaper and richer in glycyrrhizin and extractive, for all practical purposes it is the best. Interest always attaches to a knowledge of the true sources and varieties of drugs, and is frequently a source of profit as well to the pharmacist.

Batoum is the principal port of export for the Russian root which is gathered along the Trans-Caucasian Railroad, running from Batoum on the Black Sea to Baku on the Caspian Sea. The port of export for Anatolia is Smyrna, while the Spanish root find its way into commerce through the principal seaports of Spain.—*American Journal of Pharmacy*.

TANGHININ is a preparation obtained from the *Tanghinia venenifera* which has been recommended as a substitute for strophanthus. It is soluble (*Pharm. Zeit. f. Russ.*) in 100 parts of alcohol, and is readily soluble in ether and alcohol.