

# Pharmacy in England.

**Ionone and Violettone—Book of the Month, Lucas's Practical Pharmacy  
—Irish Pharmacists and Company Pharmacy—Acetone as a Solvent  
—A New Clinical Thermometer.**

(From our own Correspondent.)

The use of ionone in perfumery is fairly recognized, especially in the production of that much-boomed parma violets perfume. Those who have handled it are aware that by itself it is practically of no value, but in combination with extract jasmin and a trace of essential oil of almonds and sufficiency of oil or a strong tincture of orris, a very pronounced violet perfume is obtained. Personally I do not think there is any comparison between this strong perfume and the delicate odor obtained from violets by the enfleurage process. But the public, or a considerable section of it, now demand strong-smelling perfumes, hence the success of the parma imitation. The process for producing ionone is patented, and for some time the 10 per cent. alcoholic solution was worth something like \$7 per ounce; but during the last six months several continental makers of synthetical perfumes have been busy manufacturing substitutes for ionone. One of the best of these is violettone, originally called violettol, made by Cherit & Naef, of Geneva. The process is secret and has not been patented, but the article is cheaper than ionone, being offered at about half the original price of ionone. It has already had some effect upon the price of the dearer article, and it is quite possible that before long it will be cheaper still. Violettone was favorably mentioned in this journal some time ago, but from personal experience I do not think it equal to ionone. The odor is distinctly different and requires a good deal more manipulation to obtain a tolerable violet perfume. In fact it requires the addition of ordinary wood violets to modify its own characteristics. Whilst mentioning perfumes it may be of interest to record that wall flower is an exquisite new perfume of Bertrand Freres, of Grasse, and Butterfly Essence (rather a peculiar title) of Roger & Gallet, of Paris, is quite unique in its way.

A new clinical thermometer has been patented by Peroni, consisting of a clever device affixed to the top of the ordinary

clinical which, by merely compression serves to depress the mercury into the bulb again. This entirely obviates the practice of shaking the mercury down and apart from the ease also prevents the accidents that occur when shaking clinicals. The price is only slightly above the ordinary run, and all grades such as lens-front, half-minute, etc., are supplied.

The book of the month is unquestionably "Lucas's Practical Pharmacy," an ambitious work of some 520 pages with 283 illustrations, published by J. & A. Churchill, at \$3. Mr. E. W. Lucas, F.C.S., is the manager of John Bell & Co's. laboratory, consequently the work has a good deal of the wholesale laboratory flavor about it. Mr. Lucas is also an examiner of the Pharmaceutical Society, which will alone make for its success amongst students who have to pass the society's examinations. Formerly he was dispenser at the public hospital at Hong Kong and many of the little adaptations occurring in the book are due to the author's experience of the necessity of making extemporaneous apparatus when the proper article is not at hand or is expensive to obtain. Apart from the chapter on general operations, which experienced pharmacists will naturally skip, there is much useful information upon the manufacture and preparation of compressed tablets, cachets, eye discs, capsules, medicated cotton and gauzes, etc. The addition of a chapter upon urine analysis is of doubtful utility, as the information is not as good as that in several brochures devoted to the subject, and indeed appears to have been chiefly taken from a paper written by Mr. J. E. Saul some ten years ago. A good deal of fuss is made that the first published method of producing eye discs is to be found in this book. But the fact is that the use of these remedies even in ophthalmic practice is much smaller than it was and are rarely employed by the general practitioner now that sterilized eye drops can be successfully kept for any length of time. In the early days when lamels

were patented by Savory and Moore, their chief *raison d'être* was the proneness of solutions of alkaloids to become fungoid; but all that is altered. Besides this the compressed ophthalmic tablets are more quickly dissolved and cheaper to produce than gelatine eye discs. Comparing the work as a whole with "Proctor's Classical Lectures" and "Remington's Pharmacy," the two chief practical works on pharmacy previously in existence, "Lucas's Pharmacy" may be said to just fill the gap that exists between them. Its general lines approximate more with Proctor than Remington but bring the information up to date whilst the dispensary-like information of the Philadelphia professor is wisely left to such works as "Squire's Companion," and "Martindale's Extra Pharmacopœia." It is a prominent and worthy addition to pharmaceutical works, and if it falls short of perfection it is, nevertheless, a valuable book for practical pharmacists and students of pharmacy.

The revolt of pharmaceutical licentiates in Ireland, as shown in the recent council election, is a significant feature of the times. A former president of the society has turned his business into a limited liability company and amalgamated same with others. As a result he was rejected from the council by the votes of the licentiates. The feeling just now both in England and Ireland is very strong against company pharmacy; although not illegal, it is considered to be playing into the hands of the enemies of true pharmacy. On more than one occasion an unsuccessful candidate at the pharmaceutical examinations has started business for himself by the simple expedient of calling in his family and friends to the extent of seven signatories and registering this little arrangement as a limited company. The rest is then, unfortunately, easy. He has only to offer a fair salary and a qualified manager may be obtained, and under his name all the legal formalities of the Pharmacy Act are carried out. It is idle to suppose that a pharmacy conducted in this manner is identical with what the legislature demanded when they required the qualification of the principal. But as company pharmacy is not illegal, although obviously opposed to the best interests of both pharmacy and the public, the indignation of the licentiates is explicable.

The use of acetone in pharmaceutical extraction is not so well known as it de-