

Books and Magazines.

Books for Druggists.

We are just in receipt of a fresh consignment of *The National Formulary*, a book which should be on every druggist's shelf, and which we are mailing at the publisher's price of \$1 each. We hope in a few weeks to have copies of the new *British Pharmacopoeia* (1898), also *Squire's Companion* (new edition).
—CANADIAN DRUGGIST, Toronto.

A Beautiful Book.

Printed in blue and gold on creamy white paper, the cover of the beautiful little book just published by the North American Life Assurance Company, and its artistically illustrated letterpress contents, comprising the annual report, as well as other interesting matter in regard to this successful Canadian financial institution, constitute one of the most creditable productions of the press we have seen for some time. The occasion of this fine piece of printing is the completion of improvements in the historic building, erected by the United Empire Club in Toronto, and afterwards occupied by the Canadian Pacific Railway, now the home office of the North American Life. It is said to be one of the most admirable for its purpose in this country. An illustrated descriptive article about the building and its appointments, written by F. Howard Annes, is included in the book.

Frank Leslie's for May.

This magazine contains much of great timely interest. "Naval Warfare of To-day" is an elaborate article, giving the most complete and best illustrated description of this much-talked-of topic that has yet appeared. It is written by Frederic Stone Daniel, and is accompanied by more than twenty-five half-tone cuts of all the leading warships in our navy, including a beautiful water-color frontispiece of the battleship *Maine*, recently destroyed in Havana harbor. Another timely paper is one on "The National Congress of Mothers," the most important of the so-called "women's movements," and which is to hold its second annual gathering next month. It also is well illustrated. There is an interesting description of the Reformed Church in America, by David Jas. Burrell, D.D., the sixth in the series on the religious denominations in this

country; Bacon's Rebellion, which marked the beginning of liberty in Virginia, forms the subject of a graphic paper by Dr. Lewis R. Harley; Galveston, the "Island City" of Texas, comes in for an exhaustive and profusely illustrated article by Charles Thomas Logan; and the United States Consul at Martinique describes the city of St. Pierre. There are several very clever short stories, a department for boys and girls and other features.
—Frank Leslie's Publishing House, N. Y.

"Cortex" Pencil.

The growing demand for a pencil of this character has induced the manufacturers to place on the market this very desirable article, which for ease and comfort in use is far superior to all other known styles.

Its exterior being made of the best quality of cork, it is light in weight and very soft and smooth to the touch. It will prove a veritable boon to the consumer, as continuous writing will not affect the nerves, nor in the least tire the hand.

The lead furnished is specially prepared and of extraordinary high quality, and is made in grades.

The packing will be one dozen in a box in our patent packing, and half gross in a carton.

This pencil is sold by Buntin, Gillies & Co., Hamilton, at \$4.50 per gross.

Optical Instruction.

On another page of this issue will be found the notice of the Canadian Ophthalmic College, which although here making its initial bow through the columns of *THE DRUGGIST*, is not at all a new venture, having for the past two years been doing an extensive work in optical education.

The promoters in arranging the course of study have aimed to make simple and practical what in optical courses is usually abstruse and technical, and with this end in view the important part of instructor has been placed in the hands of one who has studied Optics from an optician's standpoint. The instructor, Mr. L. G. Amsden, having devoted his entire life to the study and practice of Optics, both as a refractionist as well as a dispensary optician, and the enthusiastic commenda-

tory letters from graduates which have been shown to us would certainly go to show that in no particular role has he been more successful than that of instructor.

The Detested Ricinus.

Animals of all kinds have a most determined loathing for the ricinus. No bird, beast, or creeping thing will touch it. A goat will starve rather than bite a leaf, while the horse turns its lip in excessive horror of its vicinity; army worms and locusts give it a wide berth, and, while they may consume every piece of green to be found in its whereabouts, religiously refrain from contaminating themselves with its association. Even the mole retires discomfited from the neighborhood of castor beans, and the not over nice tobacco worm has a firmly planted hatred of it. Hence the ricinus enjoys the unique position of being abhorred and solemnly left alone amongst any amount of herbage.



PHENACETIN OR ACETANILIDE?—The competition in phenacetin has, naturally enough, acted as an incentive to sophistication, and the, until the present, comparatively rare admixture with the cheaper febrifuge acetanilide is now said to be becoming more common. In this connection we may point out that as small a quantity as 5 per cent. of the latter body will lower the melting point of phenacetin from 135° to 127°-128°. But the most reliable method of detecting even small quantities of the adulterant is as follows:—A gramme of the suspected sample should be heated for a quarter of an hour with 5cc. of 10 per cent. caustic soda solution, and a fragment of chloral hydrate, or a few drops of chloroform added, and the mixture again gently heated. The repulsive smell of phenyl-carbamine is produced, and is unmistakable in the presence of even small quantities of acetanilide. Further, mere boiling with caustic soda will cause aniline to separate in oily drops, which cannot be mistaken. There are plenty of other simple methods of detecting this gross adulteration, but the above described is amply sufficient.—
British and Colonial Druggist.