

Pharmacy Abroad.

The admission of women to the practice of pharmacy in Russia, according to the daily press, is saddled with a proviso that they can only serve in the pharmacy during the daytime and they must live outside the pharmacy building.

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Any one who has passed the easy Chilean examination may start a pharmacy in Chili, and foreigners are favored in many respects. In 1886 there were twenty-nine not naturalized Germans in business as druggists in Chili, and this was only a fraction of the number of pharmacists of German extraction.

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There are in Calcutta no fewer than 756 drug stores. These (says the *Indian Medical Record*) may be graded into three classes. The first includes large and old-established European houses, and a few immensely wealthy but little-known Indian import businesses. The second embraces numerous second-rate recently-established chemists' shops, which do little more than general dispensing work. The third class includes hundreds of petty retail chemists' shops dealing in patent medicines and cheap drugs. In the first class there are about ten houses, and in the second about a hundred, the balance belonging to the third class. Some streets are literally crowded with this latter class of petty store. In College Street alone there are 113 drug shops. The great emporium of Calcutta, its Royal Exchange, so to speak, Chaudney Chowk, has not a few of these places, and it is simply surprising to witness the daily sale of drugs and patent medicines in this veritable beehive of trade. Here you may buy an ounce of steel drops, bottled, labelled, and all for 4p., and here Becciam's pills can be obtained for 40 per cent. less than the price charged in an English place of business. Of course quality is not a point to be studied with these sellers. In one of these shops alone in Chaudney Chowk we have heard of a day's sales amounting to over 300r. In Burra Bazaar the enormous work done by the wholesale drug dealers is simply astounding. In one of these places the daily turnover often amounts up to 5,000r. and 6,000r., and here any single drug is imported by the hundredweight. It is a sad reflection upon the Government of this country that absolute ignorance of the properties, uses, and doses of drugs reigns supreme in these strongholds of the drug-trade. It is also a serious blot upon the municipal administration of the Metropolis that in spite of an official apology for a genuine Pharmacy Act which compels the presence of qualified dispensers in all chemists' shops, these houses defy all legal enactments, simply for want of proper municipal inspection and restraint. People in the great manufacturing trades in Great Britain (adds our contemporary) can hardly imagine the enormous and lucra-

tive business in drugs, chemicals, and patent medicines that is carried on through the vast Indian peninsula. Men retire yearly with princely fortunes who but a few years before were almost penniless. Palatial drug shops form part of the street frontage of every thoroughfare, even to the smallest by-lanes of the rapidly-developing centres of the population. During the year 1891 the value of the import trade in drugs that passed through the Calcutta Custom House was estimated at 64 lacs of rupees; while that on patent medicines ran so high as 96 lacs of rupees.—*Chemist and Druggist*.

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Switzerland being the original "free" country of Europe, it is but natural that the restrictions on pharmacy there are seen at their minimum. Whereas in Sweden as few as one pharmacy to each 20,000 inhabitants is frequently found; in Zurich there is more than one drug store to each 2,000 people, and the same ratio holds good throughout the republic. Physicians dispense their own medicines largely, and the Swiss pharmacists, like those in America, rely in a good measure upon side-lines for profit. It is a general practice for German pharmaceutical students, to the number of one hundred or so, to seek engagements in the French cantons for the purpose of "perfecting themselves in French." Foreigners are practically excluded from ownership anywhere in Switzerland, save in the Canton of Geneva.—*California Druggist*.

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Dr. J. Blackham writing to the *British and Colonial Druggist* on "Pharmacy in Punjab," says that on being introduced by a friend who was known to the native proprietor of the establishment he was, therefore, free to fully examine the shop, if one could dignify by that name a hut seven feet high by about twenty square, built of rough stones and roofed with mud! Three sides were of masonry, such as it was, the fourth was one large door of rough wood locking with a padlock on the outside. The were no windows of any kind. Inside there were about half of dozen rude shelves round the wall, and these and the floor were littered over with little baskets and boxes containing the remedies of the Indian hemp, chitrata, cinchona bark, tea-leaves, senna pods and leaves, cumin seeds, capsicum pods, curraway seeds, long pepper, annatto, pomegranate, banana leaves, mango stones, mustard seeds, asafoetida, cardamom seeds, sandal-wood, yellow and red, a number of dried grasses, the leaves of some stunted palms, and a great variety of dried herbs which neither my friend or myself could recognize. Mixed up with these were a number of powders, among which I recognized nitrate of potassium, chloride of sodium, sulphur, sulphate of magnesia, cream of tartar, and black sulphide of antimony, and a number of *chattis*, or earthenware bottles, containing gruesome compounds manufactured by the quaint-looking proprietor. None of these were

familiar to me, except one, which smelt and tasted very like black draught. On one shelf I found a collection of fetiches, which were nearly as odd as the contents of the witches' cauldron in *Macbeth*. There were shark's teeth, dried lizards, bits of wood from Mahomet's grave, several pickled human fingers, tails of a variety of squirrel, tigers' claws, snakes fangs, bunches of hair from a sacred goat, biscuits blessed during the Biram, or great Mahometan festival, and even a piece of stuff used by the great Mahomet in his Hegira, which was set in a block of silver, and warranted to cure anything, from toothache to consumption, when worn round the neck of the patient, and several prayers and a good deal of pantomime gone through. Everything was as dirty as it could possibly be, and the smell of the place was so vile that we were forced to bid our unsavory host "salaam" after overhauling about half his stock. We handed him a rupee each as backsheesh, and he salaamed to the ground, and prayed to Allah that we might live forever, presenting me with a piece of wood from Mecca, which he said would keep me from catching fever so long as I wore it.

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Italy has need of German assistants capable of attending to the wants of the travelling public, says a writer in the *Pharmaceutische Zeitung*. The Italian law of proprietorship is lax, so that a foreigner wishing to circumvent the authorities may do so without risk by providing a dummy registered proprietor whose only qualification need be that of Italian citizenship.

Some Old Prescriptions.

We take from the *Saturday Review* the following ancient recipes from the Rev. Edward Topsell's "History of Four-footed Beastes":—"To those who suffer from toothache—a complaint which few escape—we commend the following simple remedies: "The teeth which were first ingendered in a horse have this virtue in them, that if they should touch the teethe of a man or woman who are molested and grieved with the tooth-ache, they shall find a finall ende of their paine; if in like manner a child doe kisse the nose or snowt of a horse he shall never feelee paine in his teeth," "the tooth of a hare laid to that part where the teeth ake easeth them," or "if the liver of a Bull be boiled on a soft fire, and put into one's mouth that hath the toothache, the paine will goe away soe soone as ever the teeth touch it." In cases of earache and deafness, "The fatte of a Dormouse, the fatte of a hen, and the marrow of an oxe melted together, and being hot, infused into the Eares, doth very much profit both the paines and deafnesse thereof." Gout was a common complaint in the days of Topsell, as is evidenced by the large number of prescriptions for the cure and "easing" of it that he has handed down to us. The following, which form but a very small