

## CHEMICALS IN FOOD AND DRINK.

(The following editorial appeared in the *Medical Record* of May 13th. It ought to be read and comprehended by all, not on account of its bearing on the recent Cuban campaign, but because this same vile means is employed to preserve all sorts of food and drink, such as "unfermented" grape juice, etc. Juice so preserved is very "cheap" but very dear if health be any "consideration") :

Ament the recent articles in certain drug journals, that *Boric acid*, *Borax*, *Salicylic acid*, etc., are not injurious to health when used as preservatives in beef, and the alleged experiments on a number of woodchoppers with foods so preserved, it only proves, if it proves any thing, that woodchoppers are hard to kill. The chemical manufacturer, drug dealer, or editor of a drug journal is not generally considered by practicing physicians good authority in matters which pertain to clinical therapeutics or physiological effects from the use of chemicals as foods, or in the use of chemicals in preservation of foods, and there arises a possible suspicion in the minds of the practicing physician, logically the only competent observer, that opinions furnished from the pharmaceutical journals on these matters may be colored by a too partial interest in their advertising drug customers.

Practicing physicians and surgeons, especially army surgeons, are the proper ones to judge of the detrimental effects of chemically prepared beef, and since the late war their testimony has been so overwhelmingly against its use that no amount of sophistry, report of whitewash commission, and court of inquiry can refute it.

When the day of successful extirpation of the human stomach arrives, and the substitution of efficient india rubber stomachs has proven feasible, then boric acid, salicylic acid, formalin, fluo-silicate of ammonium, aniline dyes and other coal-tar products and the dozen of other secret chemicals now advertised, sold, and used may have a chance and be appreciated, nay, even approved of and enjoyed, at the soldier's camp-fire banquets.

It was a famous soldier, we believe his name was Napoleon Bonaparte, who said, "Armies march and fight on their stomachs." We tremble for the warriors who shall be compelled to do heroic service for their country with only the

stomachs they were born with if filled with chemically preserved foods, especially with such chemicals as are not in any sense component part of the human organism.

The chemist, even if he be employed by a packing house or a fruit, vegetable and sauce canning factory, or an editor of a drug journal ought to know this. If he doesn't, let him submit himself to a disinterested jury of experimenters and become the subject of the dangerous experiments, and feel the results himself before he imperils the health of the public by such monstrous allegations. If a young person employed as a chemist in a canning establishment publicly intimates an opinion that salicylic acid and boric acid as preservatives are not hurtful to health, he might grow wiser if he ate such foods as a soldier, and lived to grow older.—Homœopathic Envoy.

## DON'T COUGH.

A physician who is connected with an institution in which there are many children gives the following hint which may be followed, perhaps, with advantage by others: "There is nothing more irritable to a cough than coughing. For some time I had been so fully assured of this that I determined for one minute at least to learn the number of coughs heard in a certain ward in a hospital of the institution. By the promise of rewards and punishments I succeeded in inducing them simply to hold their breath when tempted to cough, and in a little while I was myself surprised to see how some of the children entirely recovered from the disease. Constant coughing is precisely like scratching a wound on the outside of the body; so long as it is done, the wound will not heal. Let a person when tempted to cough draw a long breath and hold it until it warms and soothes every air cell, and some benefit will soon be received from this process. The nitrogen which is thus confined acts as an anodyne to the mucous membrane, allaying the desire to cough and gives the throat and lungs a chance to heal."—Homœopathic Envoy.

The New York Homœopathic Medical College opened October 3rd with a large freshman class. The college is gaining in strength every year.