

Pharmacy Abroad.

WOMEN DOCTORS.—The British Medical Association now numbers 21 women doctors who have taken advantage of the new law admitting them to membership. Of these 21 no less than 11 are practising in and about London. Besides these, Manchester claims one, Glasgow four, Edinburgh two, Nottingham one, and lastly, one practises in New Barnett, Herts, and another is to be found in the far north of Scotland.

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COMPOUNDERS IN THE BENGAL PRESIDENCY.—Candidates for the office of compounder in Bengal must produce one of the following certificates when making application for examination:—(a) From the superintendent of vernacular medical school that he has attended regularly for one year the compounder class of the school; or (b) From the legally qualified medical manager of a chemist's and drug-gist's establishment recognized by the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Bengal, that he has been apprenticed for a period of three years in his establishment; or (c) From a civil surgeon that he has assisted in the dispensing of drugs at the dispensary of a civil station for a period of five years. The positions are filled by persons born in India, as a rule.

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THE PHARMACIST IN THE FAR EAST.—The complete differentiation between the physician and the pharmacist which marks both America and England is just beginning to manifest itself in China and the other Oriental lands. On the seaboard and especially in the treaty ports where the influence of the "Foreign Devil" is at its greatest, there is considerable similarity between the East and the West. In such cities as Canton, Amoy, Foochow, and Shanghai there are drug stores which would be a credit to Broadway or Michigan avenue. The personnel of these establishments, though Chinese, has been thoroughly trained in pharmaceutical science, and will compare favorably with the graduates in pharmacy of any American institution. Nearly all read, write and speak English with fluency and correctness. Many of them have been educated by the medical missionaries who are so important a feature in the attempt to Christianize the extreme Orient. Others have spent years as drug clerks or doctors' assistants. Still others have received collegiate instruction in such schools as the Victoria College of Hong Kong or the Anglo-Chinese College of Foochow. A fourth class have had the advantages of study and residence in the great cities of England or of the British colonies. They are careful compounders, and tolerable chemists. They are remarkably orderly and keep both store and prescription department so neat and clean as to set an example to Europeans.

They are so economical in the conduct of business that they are gradually driving the English druggists out of the mar-

ket. How frugal they are may be seen from the expense of a large store which came under my notice. The premises were leased with an option to purchase at a rental of \$10 a month. There were two clerks at a salary of \$3 and \$1 a month respectively, a porter at \$3 25, a bottle washer at \$2, and two messengers at \$3 a month each. The firm consisted of three members, of whom two lived upon the premises. They carried a medium sized stock of goods and usually bought and sold upon a cash basis. They also conducted an aerated water works, which did a large trade.

In the management of their affairs, they added to the cost of their goods a sum equal to what they regarded as the amount of breakage, loss by theft, depreciation by time and weather, insurance and the like, and then added to this from 5 to 15 per cent. for their own profit. Upon this basis they were able to sell carbonic acid water, artificial vichy or kissingen for twenty two cents per dozen quart bottles, where their British competitors were demanding thirty-four.

Proprietary articles, such as Ayer's sarsaparilla, Collis Brown's chlorodyne, Alecock's plasters, Colgate's toilet soap, Beecham's and Carter's pills, Lannan's Florida water, vaseline, and Barry's trichophorous could be procured upon their counters for less than what the "cut-rate" gentlemen ask in our own land.

In liquors they were satisfied when they received \$3 a dozen for V.H. Holland gin in imperial quarts, \$3.50 a dozen for fair Scotch whiskey, \$9 a dozen for five year old Bourbon or rye; \$2 a dozen for best Zinfandel and \$17 per 21 pints of G. H. Mumm's extra dry.

The Chinese pharmacists on the coast follow the example of their European colleagues and carry quite a stock of fancy goods and what we call "notions."

Among these may be mentioned cutlery, confectionery, cigars, tobacco, stationery, small leather articles, syrups, fine groceries, pipes, wedding presents and cheap jewelry. They sell everything upon so close a margin of profit that they interfere seriously with the European retail trade in those articles.

In addition to all the articles of our own materia medica they deal in nearly all the leading Chinese drugs and medicines. Among these may be mentioned insect-wax, ginseng, peppermint oil, opium oil, pickled ginger, areca nut, dried spider, almond oil, purified pitch, rice-glucose and soy-decoction.

In the interior of China and in those cities where there are but a handful of western barbarians, such as Chow Chow Foo, Chang Cheow and Taiwanfoo, pharmacy is conducted in true Mongolian style, the same as it has been done for fifty centuries. The influence of our science upon the profession has been almost imperceptible and is found in a few preparations such as morphine pills, quinine, glycerin, Brown's chlorodyne, and vaseline. The pharmacy is usually run in conjunction with some other store, a

dry grocery, for example. It is small, occupying a space scarcely larger than a good-sized closet. It is dark, gloomy and seldom over clean. To a student of Shakespeare it gives the impression of the starved apothecary's shop in *Romeo and Juliet*. A counter runs the length of the room and against the opposite wall is a rough wooden bench on which sit the customers or the friends and relatives of the proprietor.

The stock in trade consists of about five hundred different articles of all sorts. Of apparatus there is almost nothing. All dry or dried articles, such as roots, barks, leaves, insects and reptiles are sold by weight or number. All wines or cordials are sold by the bottle, and all fine oils, essences and strong medicines by the vial. The patient, nurse or physician, but not the pharmacist, makes the infusion, filtration or decoction, as the case may be. The recipe calls for the raw materials and gives no directions. These are confided to the patient. Here, for example, is a translated prescription for mild gastralgia, indigestion and the like.

Peppermint flowers	3 oz.
Peppermint leaves	3 oz.
American ginseng	2 oz.
Cardamom seeds	1 oz.
Dried ginger	1 oz.
Pine needles	3 oz.
Yulan flowers	2 oz.
Bay bark	2 oz.

It makes a bundle at least 6x8x8 inches. For curious readers I may add that these are simmered for two hours in two quarts of water with the addition of a quarter pound of sugar, and at the end, of a glass of gin or its Chinese equivalent, *Shan Kit*. The result is a dark brown aromatic, palatable tea, which I can recommend as a capital pick me up.

The medicinal wines are another interesting feature of the Celestial drug trade. There are said to be four or five hundred of this class. I have noted over a hundred, and my list is very far from complete. Some of these are very simple, like *Gow Leng*, which is made from millet and is supposed to be a good diuretic. Of the same type are rose wine, tea wine, poppy wine and orange wine.

Of stronger nature and suggesting, if not resembling, Benedictine, is *Woo Ka Peh*, a famous stomachic and tonic. Similar to this are such wines as *Foo Quat Mor Qua*, made from tiger bones and papaya, and corresponding to hunc, malt wine and wine, *Shu Quok Kung*, used for debility, *Fa Fa* for colds and coughs, a fair sudorific, and *San Ben*, which corresponds to our beef, iron and wine, and is made from the genital organs of the tiger, deer and bullock. These preparations are all palatable and range in price from *Woo Ka Peh* at ten cents a bottle to *San Pen* at three dollars.

The apothecary holds a good social position in the East, being regarded as a half professional, half tradesman. He is protected by the law, and enjoys, if possible, more esteem by the public than his transpacific colleague.—W. E. S. FALES, U. S. Vice-Consul, Amoy, in *Amer. Drug.*