

once become popular amongst medical men who do their own dispensing. It is obvious that it should not be used indiscriminately, and that the number of pills to be taken must be explicitly stated.

Some recent papers before learned societies in London contain methods that will be found useful by those pharmacists who are called upon occasionally to exercise their analytic skill. Dr. Crosley has suggested a method of taking the melting point of wax, butter, petroleum jelly, etc., by attaching a capillary tube to the thermometer, which is then plunged into the test-tube containing the sample to be examined. The whole is surrounded by water contained in a beaker over a bunsen flame. As the temperature rises the liquefaction of the article causes it to rise in the capillary tube above the level of the mass and this is instantly noted, and is claimed to give precise and concordant results. Dr. A. Wynler Blyth has recently shown that boric acid is readily extracted from food products, which may have been preserved with it, by repeated extractions with wood spirit (methyl alcohol) and distillation carries over 75 per cent. of the boric acid present. In this concentrated distillate it is easy to detect boric acid by the green color imparted to the alcohol when ignited.

Having agreed to poison regulations, which for thirty years had been objected to, the Pharmaceutical Society is now being flooded with more or less ingenious suggestions respecting the peculiar shape of bottles, boxes, and other receptacles for poisons. The ideas are simply legion. There are patented bottles which are so complex that it becomes an everlasting puzzle to extract the contents once you have succeeded in filling the bottle. There are corks with little bells attached to them; prickly corks that fairly bristle with unpleasant edges; queer and uncouth-shaped bottles that no self-respecting pharmacist would keep anywhere but locked-up out of sight; poison cupboards that only reveal one bottle at a time, and that remind you of a Chinese puzzle; steel caps fitted with springs that require both patience, ingenuity and force to be expended before any of the contents of the bottle can be touched. But it has been pointed out that it is very desirable that some official pronouncement on the subject of a "distinctive" bottle would be advisable, as if each chemist follows his own fancy a most extraordinary assortment will result, and the public will put their own value upon the same poison

according to the special peculiarity of the container. The consensus of opinion favors the retention of the blue hexagonal poison bottle that has been in use for years and is better known to the public. But one of the most glaring defects is that no provision appears to have been made that will include the conformity of dispensing doctors to the regulations adopted voluntarily by dispensing pharmacists. There is some likelihood that before long all dispensers of medicine, at least those containing poisons, must be qualified even if assistants to doctors. It is not very long since a medical man dared to say in court that if he desired to have his dispensing done by his housemaid no one could stop him. Should the General Medical Council decide that such practices amount to infamous conduct, rendering the practitioner liable to be discharged from the register, a greater degree of safety for the public will be initiated than all the poison regulations and safeguards in the world.

Exchangeable Goods.

In every drug stock there is certain to be more or less unsaleable, or what is generally termed "dead," stock, either in the way of "patent" medicines, for which the demand in that particular locality has dropped off, or it may be in proprietary articles, preparations of certain manufacturers of pharmaceutical specialties which a physician may have become suddenly enamored with, and from which he has quite as suddenly transferred to some other "specific" introduced to his notice by the latest travelling representative.

It frequently happens that what is quite unsaleable in one locality has a large sale in another; therefore if druggists can dispose of their unsaleable for saleable articles they are preventing one source at least of loss.

We propose through our "Exchange Column" to give druggists an opportunity of offering their unsaleable stocks either in exchange for other goods or at a reduced figure for cash.

If an exchange is made we would suggest that they be all on a basis, say of \$8 per dozen for dollar articles, \$4 for fifty cent, and \$2 for twenty-five cent articles. On page 74 the first list appears, which has been sent in by an Ontario druggist.

Will be pleased to give information as to cost of insertion of a list in the "Exchange Column." This will be only

nominal, our idea being to help the retail druggists in every possible way.

Get Up!

Written for THE CANADIAN DRUGGIST.

Why is it that the average druggist takes such a gloomy look at the future and regards it only as a matter of a few years when big co-operative stores will have completely swallowed up his and his neighbor's store and reduced the long-suffering druggist to penury and want? It is a hard, very hard, thing to say, but the fact remains that the prospect of the druggist of to-day is not an encouraging one. He has fought hard and nobly for his own, and has been driven back, step by step, until, at last, he sinks for want of breath and asks the very pertinent question: "Where am I at?" The years of hard study count for naught; the close confinement for terribly long hours is a matter of no consequence, and he is reduced to the necessity of inventing some foreign means of earning a few dollars in his declining years.

This is not a fancy picture by any means; it is too true, and the sooner we recognize the truth the better for all of us as druggists. While we have been striving to invent measures to reduce the number of druggists by imposing fees and searching examinations, the rapid whirl of business competition has rendered the education qualification almost unnecessary. How often is the knowledge of chemistry and botany called upon in the ordinary counter transactions of the everyday druggist? It doesn't require much technical skill to sell a bottle of — Celery Compound or — Liver Pills. Yet, of such are the daily sales made up. These days of nostrums, when every other day or so a town is flooded with pamphlets describing the virtues of some particular compound, have had the effect of producing a people who prescribe for their own complaints or imaginary ills and expect the medicine twenty-five per centum lower than the marked price. It has naturally followed that the grocer or other store has taken up these lines and become a competitor to the druggist. Then the druggist has cried down and discouraged the sale of these same nostrums and endeavored to introduce his own preparations. A very good move for the druggist, only he must have patience and not expect the public to rush for his preparations right away. He will find that he cannot advertise like the