

A Voice from the Arctic.

Dr. F. A. Cook, who was with Lieutenant Peary on his famous North Greenland Expedition, and which resulted in the closest approach to the pole yet attained, writes the following letter to the Antikamnia Chemical Co., which will be of interest as showing how an approved product becomes far-reaching in its work.

NEW YORK CITY, N. Y.,
338 W. 55th St., Nov. 2, 1892.

GENTLEMEN, The Antikamnia which you sent for use in the North Greenland Expedition I used with gratifying results.

For Rheumatism, Neuralgic pains, as well as the pains which accompany the Grippe, it has no equal. Yours respectfully,

F. A. COOK, M. D.,

Surgeon and Ethnologist of the North Greenland Expedition.

Druggists as Opticians.

One of the most interesting as well as the most profitable lines, and one which the pharmacist is particularly adapted to handle, is that of optical goods. But the handling of these goods as a mere novice, and handling them as a skilled optician are two very different things. In these days it is only the man who is thoroughly skilled in whatever is his calling that can expect to succeed; and the days of mediocrity, or worse still, of ignorance, in ways of doing business, or in the ranks of the professions, are, as far as the financial success is concerned, long gone by. In no line is this more apparent than in optics, and the practical knowledge which enables an operator to minutely and accurately test the eye-sight and prescribe for defective vision is one that can only be obtained by proper training and teaching. We are glad to find that such a course of instruction may now be obtained without having to go to one of the many institutes in the United States which are engaged in this work. The Optical Institute of Canada, which has opened rooms at No. 53 King St. E., Toronto, has already done good work in this direction, and among its graduates are some of our prominent druggists. The excellent instruction given at this Institute has proved the marked ability of its conductor, and the success which its graduates are meeting with as oculist's opticians in the fitting of glasses in all defects of eyesight has proven that the old method of trying to fit them was, at the least, but a poor kind of guesswork and one in which no reliance can be placed. Amongst the druggists who have already obtained diplomas at this Institute, we might mention Messrs. J. Brown, Pembroke, R. T. Kyle, of W. J. Dyas & Co., Strathroy, J. R. Lamb, Athens, and others whose names have escaped our memory for the present.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Confectioners' Journal* says that banana juice makes a first-class indelible ink. A spot on a white shirt from a dead ripe banana is marked forever, and the juice from bananas thoroughly decayed is a bright clear carmine.

Pharmacology and Therapeutics.

OIL OF SAW PALMETTO, obtained by pressure from the fruit, has been employed with alleged good effect as a substitute for cod-liver oil as an alterative and nutrient. Diluted with 9 parts of paraffin oil, it is also applied locally in catarrhal affections of the nose, throat and neck of the womb.

UNTOWARD EFFECTS OF KOLA NUT.—Dr. R. M. Wilcox found during the use of kola nut in convalescence from influenza, and in catarrhal and croupous pneumonia, that night doses had to be omitted and the drug sometimes had to be suspended because of the persistent wakefulness it occasioned.

UNTOWARD EFFECTS OF SALIPYRIN.—Dr. Hitschman has found (*Zeitschr. f. Therap.*) that salipyrin produces undue sweating, skin eruptions, gastric disturbance, pulse irregularity, collapse and dyspnea.

SODIUM SALICYLATE IN SPRAINS.—Labbee has found that dram doses daily of this salt exerts a beneficial influence in sprains, whether or not a rheumatic element be present.

TR. IODINE IN RATTLESNAKE BITE.—Dr. E. F. Brown, Kissimmee, Fla., has had (Med. Brief) good results from iodine tincture in drop doses every fifteen minutes for an hour, and then drop doses every hour for twelve hours. Dr. Gauthier had also good results from it.

LYSOL IN EAR DISEASE.—Haug (Medical Standard) recommends irrigation with a centesimal solution of lysol in the treatment of meatus otorrhoea. In cases of co-existing and tympanic membrane inflammation, irrigation is preceded by instillation of a few drops of a solution of forty-eight grains cocaine hydrochlorate in a half ounce each of distilled water and alcohol.

CHORALAMID IN INSOMNIA.—Dr. J. H. McBride states (Review of Insanity and Nervous Disease Sept., 1892,) that, in a case where all other hypnotics failed, ten grain doses of chloralamid produced a refreshing sleep. Sulphonal in this case caused gastro-intestinal irritation, and was followed by depression and irritability. Chloralamid had no such effects.

VISUAL DISTURBANCES FROM MALE FERN.—Katayama and Okamoto (Medical Standard) have reported cases in which administration of extract male fern has been followed by either temporary or permanent amblyopia. In each case the dose given had been about ten grains. Lewin reports many similar cases.

ANTIPIRIN IN NOSE BLEED.—Dr. E. G. West (Boston, Mass.) asserts that nothing has proven so effectual in his experience for arresting nose bleed as antipyrin. He applies it either in solution, by means of a pledget of cotton, or in the form of powder introduced directly into the nostril. He has never known it to fail, in the most severe cases even, and it is superior to iron solutions in obviating the disagreeable "tarry" clots formed by the latter.

Disinfection—Disinfectant Whitewash.

In the presence of an epidemic of typhoid fever, and with the prospect of a tussle with Asiatic cholera in the spring or early summer, it behooves us to know exactly how we may disinfect our houses, clothing, utensils, etc., in case of need. The following, from the report of M. Gilbert to the Academie, seems to us to meet all requirements, and hence we translate it entire.

After speaking of the disillusiones and surprises met by him in his work of disinfection of the city of Havre, during the recent cholera invasion, and the modifications he was compelled to make in his work, M. Gilbert says:

"Then it was that we were forced to take a radical measure. Whenever we managed to obtain, through a good deal of coaxing, the consent of all the inhabitants of an infected house, to quit their habitation and to camp out under tents, we proceeded to disinfect the house by the following process:

"Immediately after the evacuation of the domicile we placed all the linen in the disinfecting oven, and disinfected it by the application of heat.

"The rooms were disinfected by pulverizations of the following liquid:

Sublimate.....	15 gm.
Tartaric acid	30 gm.
Water	12 l.

Mix and dissolve.

"The tubs and vessels were given a bath of 50 gm. cupric sulphate to the liter of water.

"The walls of the bed-rooms, the staircases, closets, vestibules, and annexes were washed with a 5 per-cent. solution of cresyl, and afterwards whitewashed.

"All papers and hangings were removed from the walls and destroyed, and the walls whitewashed. The floors of the rooms, the steps of the staircases, even the surface soil of the court-yard were treated to a deluge of 2-per-cent. sulphate of copper solution.

"The entire plumbing of the the building was thoroughly flushed by the aid of the fire department, even the gutters and drains being thoroughly drenched with the same solution. The drains in front of every infected dwelling were treated in the same manner."

How the walls were disinfected is told by Dr. Lapasset in the *Revue d'Hygiene*. Says the doctor: "Disinfection by lime (whitewashing), strongly recommended by Pettenkofer, and very much in favor formerly, had gradually fallen into disrepute and desuetude, until the recent researches of Richard, Chantemesse, and Laborius confirmed Pettenkofer's earlier studies, and rehabilitated the process. It was claimed that the whitewashing of dwellings and hospitals was itself but a harbinger of infection, and of course the question to be settled first was the truth or falsity of this charge. A portion of the walls of an old hospital were investigated in the most thorough manner. The