The *Medical Press* gives an extract from the diary of the late Mr. Mewburn :—

"The following statement from the fee-book of Sir Astley Cooper is curious :—

"My receipt for the first year was 5*l.* 5*s.*; for the second, 26*l.*; the third, 64*l.*; the fourth, 96*l.*; the fifth, 100*l.*; the sixth, 200*l.*; the seventh 400*l.*; the eighth, 610*l.*; the ninth, 1,100*l.*

"In 1815 Sir Astley made 21,000*l.*! ! A Mr. Hyatt, an ancient merchant, gave him 1,000*l.* on recovery under his care; and Mr. Coles, of Mincing Lane, for a long course of time, gave him 600*l.* every Christmas."

The invention of the capsule may be regarded as one of the triumphs of modern pharmacy.

The old-fashioned naked pill, with its irregular contour and its nauseous taste, which not infrequently excited in the pharynx an inverted deglutition, has become almost, if not quite, a thing of the past.

The capsule has manifest advantages over the pill, such as, ease in swallowing, readiness of solution, together with the protection it affords the medicine against atmospheric influences, thus insuring that it shall arrive in the stomach in the best condition for assimilation; and these facts being well understood by the physician, the term "Ft. pilulæ" at the close of a prescription is not now very often seen.

A capsule to meet the above requirements should consist almost entirely, if not wholly, or pure gelatin, which, on entering the stomach, appropriates water of composition, and, becoming a jelly, will readily dissolve and set the contained medicine free.

But the increased demand for capsules, together with a desire to furnish them at a low price, has tempted some manufacturers to use glue and various other cheap and impure compounds in their manufacture.

Capsules made of these substances are sometimes so slow of solution as to seriously delay the action of the medicine, or, worse still, resisting the fluids of the alimentary tract to the end, pass out like bullets, unchanged.

Before ordering them for a patient the physician should test a given specimen of capsules by holding one in his mouth until it dissolves. If its solution is rapid, and no unpleasant flavor is perceived, it may be safely used; but if it tarries long upon the tongue, or imparts to the taste a savor of the hide-store or the sour-paste pot, it should not, under any circumstances, be given to a sick person.

The old and highly reputable firm of H. Planten & Son, 224 William Street, New York, furnishes an article which will stand any test, and we can conscientiously recommend their capsules to the profession.

They are made of seven different sizes for the mouth and of three for the rectum. The latter are conical at one end, and present a form which may be easily introduced into the rectum, and retained by this organ without discomfort.

WYETH'S ELIXIR OF PHOSPHORUS.

Although Phosphorus has long been recognized as of great therapeutical value, there has been up to the present time a drawback to its extensive employment in the difficulty of finding a safe, accurate, and agreeable form in which to administer it.

Wyeth, of Philadelphia, now prepares an ELIXIR OF PHOSPHORUS, which is free from all the objectionable qualities above stated. It is absolutely reliable, non-irritating, and pleasant to the taste. Each teaspoonful contains grain 1-100 of free Phosphorus, held in perfect solution, and of assured stability. This article has been tested for nearly a year by leading physicians, and their satisfaction with it has been such as to warrant them in offering it to the profession at large as worthy of their favor. It may be given in combination with other preparations, as for example with Elixir of Iron, Quinine, and Strychnia, with the tincture of Nux Vomica, etc.

THE POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY.

The nineteenth volume of *The Popular Science Monthly* begins with the May number, and it would be difficult to find, since its start, an issue that more fully sustains the high reputation of the magazine as an exponent of modern science in a readable and attractive form. The first article, by Professor David S. Jordan, is a capital example of the way science may be made both entertaining and instructive to the general reader, youthful or adult, without any sacrifice in accuracy or dignity of statement. It is entitled the "Story of a Salmon," and treats of the life-history of that interesting and useful fish from the time it is produced as an egg until it becomes itself an egg-producer.