

PHARMACY ABROAD.

WOMEN AS PHARMACISTS.—It is stated that the Bohemian Club for the Emancipation of Women has addressed a petition to the Austrian Minister of the Interior, asking that women may be allowed to study pharmacology and practice as apothecaries. If the petition be granted the Club intends to arrange special classes for women desirous of devoting themselves to the calling. In Austria the apothecary or pharmacist is regarded as a member of a learned profession, and, as in Germany, his business is strictly under Government control, the number of pharmacies being limited, and annual visits made by professional inspectors to ascertain the state of efficiency of the establishments.—*Phar. Journal*.

FATHERLY CARE OF THE PRUSSIAN GOVERNMENT.—To protect its reckless citizens from the dire results following upon the imbibition of soda and mineral water rendered refreshing by the cooling with ice, a l'Americaine, the Prussian Government has ordered all dispensers of carbonated beverages to draw the same only at a temperature corresponding to that of drinking water, to wit, 10°C., and the public is warned against the use of ice-cold beverages in general, but of mineral waters in particular. Who wouldn't be governed?

A new pharmaceutical institute was opened recently in Copenhagen. It is located in the newer portion of the city, in the vicinity of the chemical laboratory, the Polytechnic, the museums and other institutions of learning. It is a three-story building with laboratories on the ground floor and on the first floor, each accommodating 50 students. The lecture-room is on the second floor, and will accommodate over 100 students. The building is so arranged that it can be enlarged as it becomes necessary. The cost was about 200,000 marks. There are six professors, two of chemistry, one each of physics, of pharmacognosy, of botany and of pharmacy, and no assistants. The curriculum covers fourteen months, but requires very close application. The king and the royal family were present at the opening exercises.

PRACTICAL PHARMACY AT BERLIN.—In a communication addressed to the *British Medical Journal* it is stated that no special laboratory for pharmacy exists at the Berlin University, though, on an average, seventy-seven candidates annually pass examinations in this subject. Since a new laboratory is being erected for the use of Professor Fischer, it is anticipated that Hofmann's old laboratory may possibly be handed over to the pharmacists and a professorship in pharmacy be instituted. The Society of German Pharmacists and Chemists has forwarded a petition on the subject to the Minister of Education.

ILLEGAL DRUGGISTS IN BARBADOES.—There seems to be no medical or pharmaceutical laws of any kind in Barbadoes. A Bill for the examination and registration of druggists has been repeatedly introduced in the Local Legislature, but only to be shelved on every occasion. Now the *Bridgetown Reporter*, a local journal, is sending up a wail to the ruling powers of the community beseeching them to put an end to the existing state of lawlessness. The Barbadoes Revenue, it would seem, suffers considerable loss by "the illicit sale of spirits in those places where they ostensibly deal in medicines, hair-oils, and confectionery. Scores of such places exist, and are all characterized by a beggarly array of empty bottles labelled to imitate in a faint degree the drug-bottles which form part of the equipment of a regular chemist's shop, while bottles of 'sweets' are arranged on the shelves to serve the double purpose of tempting the urchins to spend their spare coppers and to act as a blind to the real business of drinking and gambling going on within. In these places considerable quantities of liquor are sold under some other name, such as 'sweet spirits of turpentine,' (sic!) or some such stuff.—*Chemist and Druggist*.

A GERMAN METHOD OF STOPPING THE SALE OF PROPRIETARIES CONTAINING POISON.—The Berlin authorities have adopted a novel method of stopping the sale of proprietary medicines containing a poison. Under the advertisement of the article in each newspaper they insert one also, stating that the police, having caused an analysis to be made, find that the article advertised contains a certain poison, and publishing the formula and value as near as possible. In this way the public are put on their guard, whether the proprietors of the patents label them poison or not.

PATENT MEDICINES ABROAD.—An American Consular Report gives some curious information as to the admission of patent medicines into European countries. In Austro-Hungary prepared medicines, whether patented or not, unless imported for druggists, require a special permit from the Customs authorities. All medicines and medical compounds are excluded from protection by the Austrian patent law, and the sale of such is permitted only to and in drug stores. In Belgium, patent medicines can only be sold by apothecaries or other authorized persons, and must bear the seal of the seller, who assumes the responsibility of the product. The regulations in Denmark are very stringent. Both the importation and sale are confined to apothecaries, who may be said to form a monopoly. France entirely prohibits the sale of patent medicines, or, as they are called there, "secret medicines," unless such preparations are approved by the competent authority and the formula inserted in the code "Médicamentarius sen pharmacopœa Gallica."

In Germany, all proprietary medicines must be retailed by a regularly sworn and licensed apothecary, who is responsible for their effect on the patient, but the most serious restriction is the prohibition of patent medicine advertisements in public journals, when such medicines are made by a secret formula or process. This law is vigorously enforced in Baden and Prussia, but less stringently so in Wurtemberg, Bavaria, and some parts of Northern Germany, while in Saxony the authorities exercise the right of prohibiting the sale altogether. Italian regulations as to patent medicines are identical with those of ordinary drugs, and in either case a statement of the composition thereof must be previously given to the Board of Health and their approval obtained. No patent medicine is allowed entry into Russia unless special permission is on each occasion obtained from the Medical Department of the Minister of the Interior; if, after careful examination, it is proved that the production of such medicines requires elaborate work and expensive apparatus, it is allowed entry subject to a duty of about 1s. 8d. per pound avoirdupois, provided such medicines are regarded as beneficial and are compositions durably preserved. Swedish laws as regards patent medicines are very old and not generally in force. According to later decisions no private person, except a legalized apothecary, may import medicines of any kind without permission from the Board of Health or under certain restrictions for scientific purposes.—*Printer's Ink*.

"Darling, how have you been to-day?"
"Oh, nervous, debilitated, sick and unhappy."

"Heavens! You've been reading those medicine advertisements again, I'll bet a hat."—*Judge*.

A MAN was urged to take a newspaper.
"What is the use taking it? I never open it, so I don't know what's in it. What good would it do me?" "You take liver pills occasionally, don't you?" "Certainly." "Do they do you any good?" "Of course they do." "Did you ever open them and find what was in them?" That made him shell out the subscription price.—*Texas Siftings*.

A CHEMIST who had just moved into a new establishment as reported by an exchange, was boasting of his well-assorted stock-in-trade. "There isn't a drug missing," he declared. "That's saying a good deal," remarked one of his friends, a man of a pretty wit. "Come, now, I'll wager you haven't any spirit of contradiction." The shop-keeper was not in the least embarrassed. "Wait a bit," he said. "You shall see for yourself." With that he left the group and returned in a few minutes leading by the hand his wife.—*Youth's Companion*.

The wise merchant is so near-sighted that he can't see a bad-pay customer two feet away.