

Books & Magazines.

Books.

Handbook of Pharmacy, embracing the theory and practice of Pharmacy and the Art of Dispensing, by Virgil Coblenz, Ph.G., A.M., Phil. D., Professor of theory and practice of pharmacy and director of the Pharmaceutical laboratory in the New York College of Pharmacy.

The author in preparing this work has divided it into four parts, viz.: Physical and Mechanical operations; Galenical Pharmacy; the Art of Dispensing, and Volumetric Analysis, and his design has evidently been to supply a text book which would prove particularly valuable in the dispensing room and in the laboratory of the pharmacist and the college. This he has succeeded in doing in a volume of 445 pages which, while sufficiently detailed for systematic study seems to cover thoroughly the practical working of pharmacy as mapped out in the different departments.

The work is copiously illustrated, 395 cuts and diagrams of apparatus and appliances being shown. An appendix is added giving tables of atomic weights and solubilities, a list of the principal pharmacopoeial chemicals and reagents, etc. Publishers, P. Blakiston, Son & Co. Philadelphia, Pa. Price \$4.00.

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We are in receipt of No. 1, Vol. 1 of *The Spatula*, the latest addition to pharmaceutical literature, published by The Spatula Pub. Co., Boston, Mass.

Magazines.

The Ladies' Home Journal.

For the first time in his literary career Jerome K. Jerome is about to write directly for an American audience. This work consists of a series of papers similar in vein to his "Idle Thoughts of an Idle Fellow," but addressed to American girls and women. The articles will begin shortly in *The Ladies' Home Journal*, which periodical will print the entire series.

The Canadian Magazine.

The Canadian Magazine for September is rich in the variety of matter which properly belongs to a review and magazine combined, and is well illustrated. Thos. Hodgins, M.A., Q.C., in "The Early Parliamentary Franchise of England," reviews the old manhood suffrage of England and the change to the restricted suffrage of later times. Edward Meek's study is comparative politics, "The Canadian Constitution; its Fictions and Realities," is an exceedingly able paper which brings satisfaction to those who have faith in the stability of the Canadian political system. "The Moral of the British Columbia Elections," by R. E. Gosnell, not only throws light on the situation in that distant province, but suggests valuable lessons for politicians everywhere. "Production of Wheat in Canada," by Sydney C. D. Roper; "Cecil Rhodes and South Africa," by J. Castell Hopkins;

"Irrigation in the Arid Regions of America," by Harry S. Inglis, are all valuable and entertaining. "With the Prairie Chicken in Manitoba," by R. S. Masson, will please sportsmen and everybody.

Scribner's Magazine

Scribner's Magazine for October contains the first of two articles on English Railways by H. G. Prout, editor of the *Railway Gazette*. Colonel Prout recently made a trip to England expressly for the magazine, to accumulate fresh material on a subject with which he was already familiar. He has in his articles preserved the open mind and the even judgment of a man who is thoroughly well-posted on the railroad problem in all countries. In this first article, which deals with "Railroad Travel in England and America," he compares the systems of the two countries, particularly as to safety, speed, cost, comfort and construction.

Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly.

Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly is now issued from the new Frank Leslie Building, in historic old Bond Street, in what may be termed the midway publishing quarter of New York. The October number of this unique and deservedly popular magazine has for its frontispiece a fine portrait of Mrs. Frank Leslie, the head and informing spirit of the largest publishing business in the world owned and conducted by a woman. This business is described and illustrated in an article entitled "Modern Magazine Making," which is full of information and entertainment for everybody interested in the artistic and literary progress of the times.

The Ladies' Home Journal.

"An Intra-Mural View," a very artistic brochure, has been received from The Curtis Publishing Company, Philadelphia, publishers of *The Ladies' Home Journal*. As the title indicates, the booklet gives us glimpses of the interiors of the *Journal's* offices, and some idea of the work carried on there. The main building, entirely occupied by the editorial and business offices, was designed by Mr. Hardenbergh, the architect of the Hotel Waldorf, New York, and was completed in January, 1893. The exterior is attractive and the interior elegantly appointed and admirably planned. The numerous illustrations, showing the commodious and well-fitted offices, and the accompanying text, giving us some insight into the work in the different bureaus, requiring a force approximating four hundred employees, indicate the wonderful success which *The Ladies' Home Journal* has achieved in an almost incredibly short time. The first number was issued in December, 1883, so that less than eleven years have elapsed since Mr. Curtis conceived the idea which has developed into so vast an enterprise. In this short time its merit and steady improvement in all departments have received such recognition that its circulation has reached the enormous average of about 700,000, the largest magazine output in the world. The brochure also describes at some length the work of print-

ing and binding the *Journal*, which is carried on in a separate building. "An Intra-Mural View" will be sent to any one who will address The Curtis Publishing Company, and inclose four cents in stamps for postage.

MANGANESE DIOXIDE IN PHARMACY.—Attention is drawn by Hemm (Mo. Phar. Asso. Proc.) to the fact that when this chemical compound is prescribed the dispenser should be particular to employ only the purified substance. The commercial powder usually contains about 66 per cent of the dioxide, while the pure is claimed to contain 90 per cent and has the objectionable contaminations removed. The pharmacopoeial article is the commercial, but the purified substance is furnished by the manufacturing chemists at, of course, a much higher price, but well worth the difference from the standpoint of the careful prescriptionist.

DESTRUCTION OF MICROBES BY INFUSORIA.—D. Harvey Attfield a student in the hygienic institute of the university of Munich, recently carried out a number of experiments at the suggestion of Dr. Emmerich for the purpose of determining whether microbes of polluted river water are destroyed by infusoria. The experiment shows very clearly that the low forms of animal life which abound in river water are exceedingly active in the destruction of bacteria, and hence of service in the purification of water. In one instance, water which contained 3,000,000 bacteria per cubic centimeter was found to contain at the end of ten days after infusoria was introduced only 13,000 bacteria, a proportionate decrease of 200 to one.

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