impossibility for the pharmacist to take upon himself to refuse medicine to a patient. Then, again, a favorite mixture will sometimes be handed about from one family to another, and the well-thumbed prescription be made up in several different pharmacies. Physicians are sometimes very much annoyed at this, but it is evident the pharmacist is not to blame, as he can hardly dictate to a customer who presents the Besides, the celebrity of the preprescription. scription is a kind of walking advertisement for the doctor who wrote it, and is adding to his reputation daily, by introducing his name most effectually into the preserves of other medical the pecuniary advantages which his business is

It has been said that tact is worth more to a man than money. It is assuredly a great aid to a dispenser. The questions put to him by the patient, and the surveillance to which he is subjected, should never put him off his guard. With the utmost politeness he should observe the greatest reserve, and should never, on any account, make a remark which might be construed into a depreciation of the medicine ordered, or of the physician who prescribed it. His position should be as between patient and physician entirely neutral. It will very frequently happen with druggists of standing that his customers will apply to him for advice in the selection of a physician. In this case he is bound to give his advice conscientiously and with no reference whatever to the little differences which frequently exist between pharmacists and physicians, although it is not at all likely that a pharmacist can be so disinterested as to recommend a physician who is antagonistic to him.

It should be properly understood that one of the principal duties of the accomplished dispenser is to check the doses ordered, and this his education in posology eminently fits him for. If an error is observed, he should at once send a messenger to the prescriber to ask a revision of the prescription, meantime suggesting to the patient that he will forward the medicine as soon as prepared. By his manner he should keep from the patient all knowledge of the error, and his natural tact will here be of the greatest assistance to him. The prescriber, in order to prevent unnecessary delay, should in all cases, when ordering an extraordinary or heroic dose, initial the line, so that the dispenser would have no doubt or hesitation in making up the prescription. Many slight errors may be at once corrected by the dispenser, without referring back to the prescriber, as, for instance, the ordering an ounce for a drachm, or a drachm for a grain, etc.

The question of prices is another important matter, and speaking with experience, I do not believe a dispensing house can quicker ruin its reputation for tone, ability and good drugs, than

this subject I will quote the following from Parrish's Practical Pharmacy:

"Many answers to comments on his prices will suggest themselves to the ingenious salesman, but to make these conclusive he must show by the precision and judgment with which he conducts his business, and by the neutness and exactness which he brings to bear on every little package he sends out, that he regards his vocation not as a common trade, merely to buy and sell and get gain, but that as a man of science and a careful conservator of the interests of his customer, as well as his own, he amply earns all supposed to bring."

PHARMACEUTIC NOTES.

By H. R. GRAY.

EXCIPIENT FOR PILLS .- A most excellent excipient for making pill masses is the following: Take 2 drachms of powdered gum tragacanth and rub it up in a mortar with 6 drachms of glycerine (by measure). Turn into a covered pot and keep on the dispensing counter for general use. It is semi-fluid at first, but shortly forms a soft tenacious As gum tragacanth varies, it may sometimes be necessary to use 1 fluid ounce of glycerine. Twentyfour grains of quiniæ sulph. require only ten grains to make a mass. One drachm of potassi. bromidi only requires 6 grains, easily rolled out. Pills made thus will not become hard. In using excipients for pills ordered by prescription, the weight of the excipient used should invariably be noted down in the prescription book to secure uniformity of size when a fresh box of pills is ordered.

APOMORPHIA.—Prescribers should be careful to indicate which preparation of apomorphia they require. The amorphous, which is a greyish powder, should never be used, as it varies greatly in strength. The most reliable salt of apomorphia is the muriate in crystals. It is of uniform strength, very soluble, and is double the price of the amorphous. Dose 10 to \(\frac{1}{2} \) grain as an emetic.

CHRYSOPHANIC ACID, which has recently been recommended in a London contemporary, is the chief constituent of the colouring matter of rhubarb, goa powder, waterdock and other plants. Its chemical formula is probably $C_{1,0}$ H_8 O_3 . It has been variously called rheic acid, rhubarbic acid, rumicing It is met with in pharmacies in the form of a bright yellow powder, soluble in ether, alcohol and benzol, and only slightly in water. It is exceedingly stable, and may be brought to a very high temperature without change. Some samples have more odour than others. It is crystallizable, and derives its name from its golden shining crystals. It has been used with apparent success in certain skin. diseases, in the form of ointment, but whether it will be more than a nine days wonder remains to be to charge what are known as low prices. On seen. Goa powder, which contains a large percentage