

Pharmacy in England.

Some Effects of the New B.P.—The Chemists' Exhibition.—Novelties at the Exhibition.—Sugar-coated Compressed Tablets.—Granular Hypo-sulphite of Soda for Photographers.—A Combined Percolator and Pneumatic Filter.

(From our own Correspondent.)

The effect of the new B.P. is already being felt both in retail and wholesale. Already a successful prosecution has been undertaken against a chemist for retailing a sample of sweet spirit of nitre which did not answer the tests of the new B.P. for Spirit *Æther Nit.* The unreasonableness of not allowing any time in order to get rid of old stock is being keenly felt, and in this respect the prescribing doctor is in an infinitely better position than the unfortunate pharmacist. The former can go on using the 1885 preparations as long as he likes, for he is a law unto himself, and I am credibly informed by more than one wholesale house that supplies medical men that so far they have had hardly any demand for anything of the 1898 B.P. Then several commercial articles, such as citric and tartaric acids, bicarbonate of sodium, liquid paraffin, glycerin, etc., are not so easily obtainable to answer all the tests of the new B.P., which in several instances are either absurdly stringent or based upon errors. Warrington has shown that the tests for lead in citric and tartaric acids are defective; Howard proves the same thing about sodii bicarb., and Millard has stated that the specific gravity for liquid paraffin in the new B.P. is too high, and is supported by Stern Bros., one of the largest manufacturers of this article, and by Martindale in the *Extra Pharmacopœia*. Some of the alterations in strength, not at first comprehended, are now seen to be considerable. Thus the new tincture of belladonna is fully twice as powerful as the old; ipecacuanha wine and vinegar are nearly twice the former strength, and so is tincture of nux vomica, owing to more perfect standardization; liquor strychnine hydrochlor. is only four-fifths of its old strength, owing to the hydrochloride replacing the pure alkaloid dissolved with acid; compound liniment of camphor (*Lin. Camph. Ammon. B.P., 1898*) is stronger in ammonia.

Some physical changes that were unexpected and not announced are alcoholic extract of belladonna now a yellow powder, extract of physostigma is also

pulverulent and so is extract strophanthus. Glycerin of pepsin is darker than the acid glycerole usually supplied from the fresh stomachs. Tincture of nux vomica is greenish brown. Liquor, Sars & Co., Conc., is not exactly like the old concentrated decoction, being lighter and more palatable in spite of its greater strength. Colonial chemists, I understand, are promptly accepting the new B.P., and export houses have been busy supplying small quantities of all the new B.P. preparations, so that their clients will be in an early position to dispense them if required.

The annual Chemists' Exhibition has again been a success both from the point of view of the number of people and exhibitors attending. This year the Agricultural Hall was the rendezvous, but the 180 stands did not succeed in filling that vast place. There was a large gap at one end that was filled by a stand for the Ladies' Pompadour Band, surrounded by many stairs. There was also a marked absence of the colonial visitors who last year ordered so freely as to make the hearts of many exhibitors rejoice. Of course, their presence last year was partly due to the attractions of the Diamond Jubilee, and it is anticipated that not until 1900, when the Paris Exhibition may prove a great attraction, will so many colonials visit Europe again. The model pharmacy erected by Evans, Sons & Co., of Liverpool, was the centre of universal interest, although it must be candidly admitted that light oak in spite of its clean appearance and good wearing qualities is nothing like so effective as American walnut or even mahogany. A good deal of the effect was due to the recess-labelled shop rounds and no modern pharmacy can be considered complete without these artistic bottles which wear well and impart a finish to the shelves procurable in no other way. Several entire exhibits were sold, including those of sponge dealers, chemists' sundries and advertising novelties. The novelties were not numerous, but a few are well worth notice. Lomela is the name of a skin soap, ointment and

cream recommended by the proprietors, the Lomela Co., of John Bright Street, Birmingham, for cutaneous diseases and the complexion generally. The matto chain is composed of small balls running freely on a wire that can be rubbed over any part of the body for self-massage. Ovaline-soap, stated to contain a large percentage of yolk of egg, which is claimed to be the natural emollient of the skin. Parke, Davis & Co. had an effective show of their well-known preparations and also those of other American manufacturers, such as rhubarb fingers, obtained by compressing the pure drug. Southan Bros. & Barclay had a Biblical herbarium, illustrating the natural history of the Bible. The Crown Perfumery Co. exhibited Crown Lavender Salts Soap, for which a patent has been demanded. Valentine's Extract Co. produced Valentine's Meat Globules (patented), made from beef extract; one or two dropped into a teacup of boiling water forms beef tea. To cyclists, travellers, etc., these should prove a veritable boon. Airators, limited, of Broad Street Avenue, London, E.C., showed some novel features in "sparklets." These are small steel receivers, twelve of which only weigh four ounces, containing liquid carbonic acid gas, and, when one is attached to the special cane-covered soda-water bottle and a metal cap that pierces the sparklet is screwed over all, the carbonic acid is forced into the bottle and is ready aerated for use. The practical advantages of the invention were demonstrated to an admiring crowd all day long. The Norton Folgate Rubber Co. exhibited a portable machine for filling collapsible tubes with pastes, paints, or ointments, that should prove a time-saving and neater arrangement than that usually effected. Chemists who put up their own tooth-pastes or cyclists' repairing solution, etc., would find such a machine fill the desired bill.

Sugar-coating is not an art at which probably many chemists excel, but there is no question of the preference given by the public to medicines covered with sugar-coating. Pills have long been popular, chiefly introduced by New York houses, although medical men raise some objection, as the pill has to be made so very hard to stand the coating. This does not, of course, refer to Upjohn's quinine pills, which have been the wonder of practical pharmacists ever since their introduction. But quinine, cascara, and several other similar nauseous or bitter drugs, formerly supplied in compressed