

ment, he found that by the treatment the oil lost nearly the whole of its disagreeable taste and odour, a slight fishy odour alone remaining. Another advantage is that the oil preserves all its nutritive properties. The following is the method employed:—

Cod-liver oil, 20 parts; ground roasted coffee of good quality, 1 part; pure powdered ivory black,  $\frac{1}{2}$  part.

The whole is transferred to a glass flask, carefully mixed and heated over a water-bath to 120° or 130° F. for a quarter of an hour, care being taken to keep the vessel corked. The heat is then removed, and the mixture allowed to stew for three days, with occasional agitation. It is then filtered, and a very limpid oil of an amber colour thus obtained. Its odour and taste recall that of coffee, while the fishy taste is not very pronounced. The addition of coffee to cod-liver oil may also perhaps augment the nutritive and therapeutic properties of the latter

### Pepsin.

It is due to the valuable experiments lately conducted by Mr. Emil Scheffer (Pharmaceutical Chemist of Louisville, Ky.), that we now possess a better knowledge of his remedy, as well as how it should be prepared. No wonder that many observant physicians have always contended there was no therapeutic value in the wine of pepsin. Their conclusions were right, for Mr. Scheffer has clearly proven that the alcohol contained in the wine destroyed the pepsin. (*Amer. Jour. Pharm.*, 1870, p. 97.) Consequently no effects can be expected from a solution of pepsin in a solvent containing alcohol. Neither have I much faith in the dry pepsin, owing to its being mixed with half starch, which is apt to turn musty by the least attraction of moisture.

The gastric juice containing hydrochloric acid induced Mr. Scheffer to adopt the more rational plan of preparing his liquid pepsin by using that acid and glycerine.

The glycerine in this case not only acts as a preservative, but undoubtedly also produces a soothing effect on the irritated mucous membrane of the stomach. The dose is from one to two teaspoonfuls after each meal, in cases of dyspepsia, indigestion, and vomiting of pregnant women. I am informed that the liquid pepsin so prepared has given entire satisfaction to many of the Louisville physicians who have prescribed it. It is my opinion that the profession have heretofore been greatly deceived by the so-called wine of pepsin, usually made from the *rennet* instead of the pepsin proper, and the little good they have seen may have been more owing to the slight stimulating effect of some "old sherry" than anything else.

Rennet is made from the fourth stomach of the calf, and it is very doubtful whether identical with pepsin or not; because it has been proven that the most powerful pepsin is found in the carnivora, and next to them in the omnivora. C. Schmidt has demonstrated that the gastric juice of the dog dissolves from five to six times more albumen than that of the sheep, and Claude Bernard's experiments have also given similar results. Mr. Scheffer is still engaged in further researches on this subject, and I hope may soon be able to tell us what relations, if any, rennet bears toward pepsin.—*Med. and Surg. Reporter*.

### Table of Measures.

The following table, which appears in an English exchange, will be found useful to some of our readers:

A box 24in. by 16in. square, and 28in. deep, will contain a barrel.

A box 26in. by 15 $\frac{1}{2}$  in. square, and 8in. deep, will contain a bushel.

A box 12in. by 11 $\frac{1}{2}$  in. square, and 9in. deep will contain half a bushel.

A box 8in. by 8in. square, and 8in. deep will contain a peck.

A box 8in. by 8in. square, and 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. deep will contain one gallon.

A box 7in. by 8in. square, and 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. deep will contain half a gallon.

A box 4in. by 4in. square, and 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  in. deep will contain a pint.

### Maxims of Success.

The celebrated Scotch surgeon, James Syme, who died last June, used to give his students the following maxims to insure success in practice:

1. Never look surprised at anything.
2. Before stating your opinion of a case on your second visit, ascertain whether your previous directions have been complied with.
3. Never ask the same question twice.—*Med. and Surg. Reporter*.

### Changes.

Mr. George Rankin, formerly of the establishment of Messrs. Lyman Bros. & Co., has commenced a new business at Markham.

Mr. Neil C. Love has removed to his new premises, corner of Yonge and Richmond streets, Toronto.

Messrs. Jones & Jones, of Port Perry, have sold out to Messrs. Allison & Campbell, of that place.

Messrs. Chamberlain & Gibbard, of Strathroy, have dissolved partnership. Mr. Chamberlain continues.

Mr. E. N. Bromley has opened a store at Clifton.

Smithville boasts the addition of two new drug stores; one opened by Messrs. Hewson & Co; the other by Mr. J. T. Middleton.

The business at Yorkville formerly carried on by Messrs. Leslie & Co., and subsequently by Mr. W. Mitchell, has again changed hands and is now conducted by Mr. J. C. Lander, former assistant in the establishment of Messrs. Elliot & Co. of this city.

A new business has been commenced at Meaford, by Messrs. W. Bell & Co.

FIRE.—A narrow escape from the ravages of spontaneous combustion occurred in an upper flat over the store of Messrs. Holbrook & Stark, of Hamilton, last Thursday. The *Spectator* says the flat alluded to is used as a kind of store-room, wherein a quantity of drugs and chemicals are kept. About ten minutes before the fire was discovered, Mr. Holbrook was in the room, and at that time there was no sign of fire, and as there was no fire used in the place, its origin is

a mystery. The only conclusion come to is that it was spontaneous combustion, caused by some rags, saturated with oil, that were in a box exposed to the rays of the sun. Had the fire been undiscovered a few minutes longer, it is hard to tell what the consequences would have been.

### Fall Trade Report.

Respecting the Fall Trade, which last month opened very hopefully, we may now say that it behoves all business men to cultivate a good degree of caution, because it is well ascertained from reliable statements coming from all parts of the country, that the yield of the harvest is falling largely below the expectations which had been formed of it, and, as a necessary consequence, the amount of money put into circulation will be proportionately small; so that country traders in all departments will find more or less difficulty in meeting payments.

As regards goods sold by wholesale druggists, there have been, in the past few weeks, more and greater changes than usual, owing largely to the war raging between two great European nations, which, usually, are both great producers and great consumers of the class of goods in question. Among them the chief ones affected are, of course, Saltpetre, Sulphur, and the preparations of Lead, especially the first one, which, in a few days advanced some fifty per cent. The rise on the other two is smaller than might have been expected. There is quite a long list of articles which are indirectly affected in price by the terrible contest now going on; among them are Ethers, Chloroform, Bismuth, Glycerine, Santonine, Perfumery, Fancy Articles, Glassware, &c., &c., all of which are either dearer, or likely to be so before long.

Among articles which are higher in price we may mention, crude Antimony and its preparations, Vanilla bean—which are almost out of market; extracts of Belladonna and Henbane, Gums *Assafoetida*, *Guaicum* and Shellac, Mercury with its combinations, Opium, Quinine—which is very scarce, Gentian and Hellebore Roots, Cardamom Seeds, American Saffron, and among Spices, Black Pepper and Mace.

There are too, quite a number of articles which favor buyers, such as Iodine, Leptandrin, Citrate of Magnesia, Ipecac, Jalap, E. J. Rhubarb, Indigo, Linseed Oils, Seal Oils, &c. &c., which are either lower or remain at the very moderate prices they have latterly been sold at.

We are quite of opinion that in the Drug Trade, as in many others, the facilities for country dealers supplying themselves at low rates are quite as great in Toronto as in any city of the Dominion.