

forthcoming *Addendum*, for the General Medical Council.

General Medical Council Office,
299 Oxford street,
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Extract from the report of the Pharmacopoeia Committee of the General Medical Council, received and adopted by the Council on December 5th, 1899.

RESPECTING THE INDIAN AND COLONIAL ADDENDUM.

"Fifty-three of the seventy British administrations of India and the colonies have already communicated their views to the Medical Council. The committee desire to express their cordial thanks to those who have thus contributed much valuable assistance, and to note with gratification that in many colonies the *British Pharmacopoeia* in its present form has completely satisfied all requirements."

Patent Medicines in Japan.

In an article in the *Rikugo Zasshi*, quoted in the *British and Colonial Druggist*, Yamagata Tokon discourses in an interesting manner on the advertising and sale of patent medicines in Japan. According to the writer, there are at least one hundred quack remedies and cosmetics whose sale is solely dependent on the persistence with which they are advertised in newspapers. The advertising mediums are usually one or two of the smaller dailies, but the names of patent medicines may frequently be seen in the pages of Buddhist magazines. The Japanese names given to the various articles for sale show a considerable originality. They are either made up of names derived from the original foreign name of the article, names based on the disease which the specific is designed to cure, or abstract names describing the general effects of the article recommended.

As examples of the latter, Taiyo-gan (sun pills), Taiyo-san (sun powders), Beppin-sui (beauty water), Tekimen-sui (immediate effect water), Kime chinki (skin texture tincture), and Tsuya-king (the chief of gloss-producing cosmetics) are given. The number of patent medicines advertised is large, Mr. Yamagata, in a casual investigation, noting seventy-eight different specifics in the columns of a few newspapers. These are principally pills for insuring and preventing conception; tonics of all kinds, including Imori

no kuroyaki (burnt water lizard, used as an aphrodisiac); and poison antidotes and disease cures. The methods of advertising employed are similar to Western ideas, and the practice of offering 5,000 yen to anyone who proves the inefficacy of the article recommended is very common. In 1896 in Tokyo alone there were registered 1,401 inventors and 5,145 vendors of patent medicines. In the writer's opinion, restrictions should be placed on the manufacture and the sale of patent medicines and cosmetics.

Artificial Sponges.

A process patented by Dr. Gustav Pum, of Graz, Germany, consists principally in the action of zinc chloride solution on pure cellulose. The results are amyloid and hydro-cellulose like products, which swell up with water, but turn horny and hard on drying. In order to retain for the product the property of also absorbing water after drying, alkali-haloids are employed in treating the cellulose with zinc chloride, and finally the product is subjected to a mechanical treatment. Thus for example, 2,000 grammes of concentrated zinc chloride solution and 2000 grammes of sodium chloride are used for 100 grammes of cellulose, whereby a pasty viscous mass is obtained which is mixed with about 1 kilo of coarse grained rock salt. The plastic mass thus obtained is pierced in a press mold with pins, after whose removal the pressed material appears traversed by small canals in all directions. The excess of salts is removed by washing one or two days with alcohol and water. The product thus obtained can take the place of natural sponges in all its uses, and may especially serve for filtering water for sanitary and industrial purposes. It is also suitable for filling up life preservers, for the production of anchor buoys, as well as in surgery for absorbing secretions, etc.—*Scientific American*.

Selections

HEROINE HYDROCHLORATE—This new derivative of morphine has been carefully investigated therapeutically by Dr. Ferreira. He finds it acts as an excellent sedative in asthmatic and tubercular cases, and finds also that it is always far better tolerated than morphine by patients who are not used to the administration of narcotics.

Santonate of lime is a white, tasteless

powder, entirely insoluble in water. It may be obtained by heating santonin with milk of lime and drying the mixture. Owing to its lack of solubility and consequent slow absorption, this compound is claimed to be a far superior vermifuge to santonin. Being tasteless, it is well suited for administration in form of pastilles. (Ap. Ztg.)

MELON ROOT AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR IPECAC.—Heberger, describing the bitter principle of the cucurbitaceae, attributes emetic and purgative properties to the root of the melon. The characteristics of this principle are as follows: A compact, brownish mass, breaking with a shining fracture, very deliquescent. The aqueous solution has a bitter, slightly pungent taste. It is not affected by acids or alkalis. It is readily soluble in alcohol, and from this solution is thrown down by acetate of lead or an infusion of nutgall. Ammonia and caustic potash dissolve it readily, and acids produce in these solutions a gray brown precipitate that is sparingly soluble in water. According to Dr. Langewicz, the powdered root of the cultivated plant may be safely taken in ounce doses. The wild plants are more active, 0.5 to 0.7 gm. (8 to 10 grains) constituting an effective emetic. The bitter principle itself causes vomiting in doses of 0.09 gm. (1½ grain).—*L'Union Pharm.*

ANTISEPTIC MOUTH PERLES.—According to Von Rudlauer these may be prepared in the form of cachous, each containing 0.001 gm. of thymol, menthol, eucalyptol, saccharin, and vanillin. They may be used in place of tooth or mouth washes and gargles, especially in case of children not old enough to use a gargle. For adults, two perles are allowed to completely dissolve in the mouth, the solution being swallowed.—*Pharm. Central*.

TO RENDER CREOSOTE SOLUBLE IN WATER.—Saponin is said to have the property of rendering creosote soluble in water. To 10 grammes of beechwood creosote add 80 grammes tincture quillia and 60 grammes distilled water. This mixture forms a solution which can be diluted with tepid water and administered as an enema or otherwise.

Benzoyl peroxide is a disinfectant and bleaching agent, obtained by the interaction of benzoyl chloride, hydrogen dioxide and sodium hydrate. It is a white powder slightly soluble in water, very soluble in alcohol, glycerine and