

H. V. C. that the original and not an imitation is given to your patients. Samples of the original H. V. C. with formula and literature will be sent on request to N. Y. Pharmaceutical Co., Bedford Springs, Bedford, Mass.

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#### QUACK MEDICINES IN AUSTRALASIA.

We learn from the *Australasian Medical Gazette* (October 26th) that, in reply to a question, the Minister of Customs stated in the House of Representatives that seven prohibitions of 'quack medicines' had been made by the Commonwealth Government during the past twelve months, in some instances in consequence of palpably misleading claims as to the efficacy of the compound, and in others because of the nature of the preparations themselves. In addition, objections had been taken to the claims practically of omnipotency accompanying 230 nostrums of various kinds, and makers have been warned that "such extravagant claims must be deleted." It was understood that some goods the importation of which was objected to were manufactured in the Commonwealth. A perusal of local advertisements showed that extravagant claims were put forth, which would not be permitted in connexion with printed matter accompanying imported medicines. The Customs Department had at present no power to exercise super-trums to go unchecked.—*British Medical Journal*.

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#### THE HEROIN HABIT.

J. Phillips, Cleveland, (*Journal A. M.*, December 14), calls attention to the danger of heroin as a habit-forming drug. Even physicians are not sufficiently alive to this danger, and he refers to cases observed or reported that illustrate this fact. The special purpose of his paper, however, is to call attention to the fact that heroin is being used extensively by the method of snuffing among the disreputable classes in the large cities. Inquiry has shown to him that the practice is quite common. One of the three patients whose cases he reports from his own observation told him that he knew at least of twenty of his associates who used the drug in this manner. They have no difficulty in obtaining the heroin, but buy it in bottles of a hundred tablets each, paying 60 cents for the same. The method of use is to take three or four tablets and crush them in a piece of stiff paper and snuff the powder from the paper or from the hand. The symptoms resemble closely those of chronic opium poisoning except that heroin poisoning causes a chronic rhinitis similar to that sometimes caused by cocain. Some patients who are addicted to the use of morphin substitute heroin because it is more easily obtained and is advertised as harmless by some manufacturers of nostrums.