

Business Notices.

As the design of the CANADIAN DRUGGIST is to benefit mutually all interested in the business, we would request all parties ordering goods or making purchases of any description from houses advertising with us to mention in their letter that such advertisement was noticed in the CANADIAN DRUGGIST.

The attention of Druggists and others who may be interested in the articles advertised in this Journal, is called to the SPECIAL CONSIDERATION of the Business Notices.

Vials.

Read T. C. Wheaton & Co.'s advertisement on page 256 of this issue. Their goods are uniform in measurement, of excellent quality and must commend themselves to the trade.

Vin Mariani.

Lawrence A. Wilson & Co., Hospital St., Montreal, are sole agents for this medicinal wine in Canada. Sales are, we understand, increasing rapidly and its excellence must lead to a permanent demand.

Holiday Goods.

The Reinhardt Mfg. Co., Montreal, are offering some very desirable lines in Holiday goods this fall. Their stock is principally of their own manufacture and the designs are for the most part very elegant. See advertisement.

Solazzi.

Solazzi, the well known brand of Pure Licorice Extract is advertised in this month's issue. The strong endorsement given it by the leading medical press and practitioners leave no doubt as to its purity and excellence. When ordering specify "Solazzi."

The "Ideal."

Lyman, Knox & Co., Montreal and Toronto, direct the attention of the trade in this issue (see second page of cover) to the "Ideal" Hair Brush, which is claimed to be a genuine "Siberian bristle brush with a single bristle substituted for the ordinary tuft, the bristles being set in an elastic air-cushion." The prices are reasonable and the brush should prove an excellent seller.

The Principles of Pharmacognosy.

The intelligent study of materia medica, or pharmacognosy as it is now more properly called, naturally presupposes a more than elementary acquaintance with the morphology and structure of plants. Without such previous knowledge it is difficult for the student to understand even the technical terms commonly used by the lecturer and author in describing a drug, and quite impossible for him to have an adequate grasp of the subject he is endeavoring to study. And yet for him to possess such knowledge is the exception rather than the rule; the apprentice is frequently advised to commence his studies with materia medica; he does so by committing to memory the botanical source, natural order, and habitat of the drug, and thus acquires a certain amount of parrot-like information which, when occasion may require, he re-

peats in a parrot-like manner, succeeding admirably in converting a fascinating study into tedious repetition. Should the student not be in a position to avail himself of the services of a teacher of botany, he would do well to take as his guide one of the many elementary text-books, and study morphology and structure on material that he can gather from field or hedgerow, for the commonest trees, shrubs, and herbs will furnish him with abundant examples. Such works as Lindley's 'School Botany,' Oliver's 'Lessons in Elementary Botany,' Scott's 'Structural Botany,' will not only render technical botanical terms intelligible and familiar to him, but will train him to observe, and to observe critically; for this reason the necessity for making the subject essentially a practical one cannot be too strongly insisted on. Nor should he content himself with simply collecting and examining leaves and flowers, as is often the case. Roots, stems, and fruits should, and as his interest grows, would be subjected to scrutiny. Much information can be gained by allowing stems and roots to dry, and observing the changes that take place. At the same time, with the aid of a text-book his knowledge of systematic botany would grow without effort, and the student would find himself in a position to study with advantage the crude drugs derived from the vegetable kingdom. In extending his studies in this direction he would do well to classify his drugs organographically, and study the most familiar, say the leaves, first. By this means the mental strain involved in constantly transferring the attention from one to some other totally different organ would be avoided, and the powers of observation further tested. Moreover, he should preface the study of the leaves by studying in his text-book the structure of the leaf in general, and the same with the other organs.

In dealing with the vegetable drugs the aid of a text-book must be invoked. As the student reads the drug should be in one hand, his hand-lens in the other, that each statement as it is read may be verified or corrected, but he is advised to refrain from subjecting the drug to microscopical examination until he has acquired a knowledge of botanical anatomy. From the 'Medicinal Plants' of Bentley and Trimen, if available, he will gather an idea of the appearance and habit of the mother plant, whilst the 'Pharmacographia' offers him in most attractive form concise accounts of its commerce and history. Thus, and thus only, can he learn to know a drug. Let him be warned against all tables of materia medica that contain little more than the "name, natural order, and habitat" of the drug, and that may at most serve to "cram" for examinations in which little else is required of the candidate, but bear about the same relation to materia medica as a box of dry bones does to the living creature of which they once formed a part. Let him also avoid the error, too commonly committed by both

student and teacher, of reducing his studies to the mere discernment of certain characters by which one drug may be distinguished from others that resemble it. The desirability of his being able to distinguish each and every drug is undeniable, but it is only a fraction of the object of his study, and a fraction with which he will be already acquainted if his examination of each drug has been minutely and conscientiously carried out. He should at all times distinctly remember that his business is not simply to know this or that detail in any one drug, but to be familiar with at least the leading points in the history, life history, structure, and composition of every drug.

To understand the production and collection of structureless drugs obtained from plants the student must be acquainted with the various glands, ducts, laticiferous vessels, and other tissues in which such substances as oils, oleoresins, gums, resins, etc., are secreted by the plants, as well as the changes which cellulose may undergo in the formation of such substances as gum or resin. Here, necessarily, the microscope must be requisitioned for the study of these structures, and it may be assumed that the student will have made sufficient progress in anatomical botany to enable him to make an intelligent use of the instrument; certainly he will find the study of this second section of materia medica amplify and explain much that he had read and observed in the first. Nor will the study of these drugs be complete without an approximate knowledge of their chemical constituents, their chief reactions, and principal physical characters.

Up to this point the student has been dealing with drugs more or less intact; the further development of the subject will logically consist, first, in the identification of unknown, fragmentary, powdered drugs, and, secondly, the micro-chemical detection of their active principles and determination of the tissue or tissues in which they reside, a study which is best pursued at the hand of an experienced histologist.—*Phar. Journal and Transactions.*

Borate of Calcium.

This salt has been introduced into therapeutics by Dr. A. Alberto, of Rio Janeiro. It is white, inodorous and nearly tasteless and is prepared by precipitation from a solution of chloride of calcium by borax. The author recommends its application for burns and in cases of moist eczema and fetid sweating. Taken internally it constitutes an excellent anti-diarrhoeic, especially for children, the dose being about five grains for a child a few months old and proportionately greater for older patients. Its efficacy against diarrhoea seems to be due to a double antiseptic and anesmosmotic action due to the boric acid and lime into which the salt is decomposed in the intestines (*L'Orosi*, xvii., 1894, 199, through *Rep. de Pharm.*)