

SELECTIONS.

NAPHTHALIN as a teniacide is now receiving much attention, and its use in doses of 4 to 8 grains for children and 15 grains for adults, is said to be almost invariably followed by the complete expulsion of the tape worm, and this, too, in cases where other drugs have failed.

DIGESTIVE FERMENTS are more generally distributed than we imagine. There is one always in urine which dissolves fibrin; this is uropepsin. The quantity varies according to the individual, and not according to health. There is also a trypsin in the urine—urotrypsin—which differs from pancreatin in not being destroyed by boiling. Further, the urine contains uroptyalin, which is an amylolytic ferment. A similar ferment is found in the sweat—hidroptyalin.

TO CUT SHEET BRASS CHEMICALLY. Make a strong solution of bichloride of mercury in alcohol, and with a quill pen draw a line across the brass at the place at which it is to be cut. Let dry on, and then with the same pen draw over the line with nitric acid. The brass may then be broken across like glass cut with a diamond. The philosophy of this is that the salt of mercury is decomposed, the free mercury amalgamating the zinc, and the nitric acid attacking the copper of the brass.

OXIN, A NEW MEAT EXTRACT.—This, according to Rousseau (*Journ. de Med. de Paris*), is prepared from lean beef, without fat, bone or tendon, by pounding it to a fine pulp, which is then mixed with sugar. The compound is placed in a stirring apparatus and subjected to a temperature of 40° C., whereby the meat is completely changed into a saccharine extract. This can be brought by further heating to any degree of concentration required. "Oxin" is now sold in compressed tablets, whose digestibility is said to equal that of raw meat.

TIMBOINE, A NEW AND INTENSELY POISONOUS ALKALOID.—Dr. Plaff reports from Brazil (*Pharmaceutische Post*) that he has succeeded in isolating from the crushed roots of a leguminous plant called timbo by the aborigines of Brazil, a new and exceedingly toxic alkaloid, to which he has given the name timboine. The Indians have long used a decoction of the timbo roots for the purpose of killing fish by poisoning the waters, just as *Cocculus Indicus* is used in other countries. A small amount of the decoction is said to suffice for a very large volume of water.

A NEW LABEL PASTE.—The *Moniteur Industriel* gives the following: Macerate in a small quantity of water 120 gm. of gum arabic, and in another vessel, with a similar quantity of water, 30 gm. of tragacanth. When the latter is thoroughly swollen rub it up until it makes a homogeneous magna, and to this add the gum arabic. Force the mass through a linen strainer, and to the mixture add 120 cem. glycerine and 2.50 cem. oil of thyme, and

bring the volume up to 1 litre by adding distilled water and thoroughly incorporating the whole. This preparation should be preserved in well-stoppered bottles.

THE GRASS OIL OF INDIA.—Dr. R. F. Hutchinson, retired Surgeon General of the Bengal Army, draws the attention of the medical profession to the valuable properties of the grass oil of India. It is, he says, the essential oil of the tall spiked grass of the Central Provinces of India, the *Andropogon schoenanthus* of Linnaeus, and yielded the very precious ointment of spikenard of Scripture, known and valued in India as "Rusa-ki-tel," or Rusa oil. Its properties are alterative, emollient, and rubefacient. It is invaluable in gout and rheumatism, and, I may add, of remarkable efficacy in phlegmasia dolens. It is either rubbed in pure or mixed with salad oil. Being an essential oil, it is expensive; but a little goes a very long way, and its fragrance is largely in its favor. The oil is acted on by light, and passes from lemon-yellow to dark brown, but without losing its efficacy or fragrance.

Origin of Show Globes.

BOTTLES or vases, colored or containing colored liquids, are of pharmaceutical import. The question of the origin or their use as signs is often asked. It cannot be definitely answered. But as to how the custom originated, one may confidently say that it arose from the common-sense desire of the dealer in medicinal wares to make the fact obvious to the passer-by. The confectioner does essentially the same thing, and so, indeed, do the grocers, and many others.

By turning to Larwood and Hotten's book it will be seen that a golden bottle has been used as a banker's and a goldsmith's sign; also, that bottles of various kinds have in other days, as now, decorated many a tavern front.

Hence, a bottle or vase can hardly be regarded as a symbol, and much less the exclusive symbol of a dealer in medicines. If it were similar in every instance and had something special in its form or color, or both, it might be so regarded.

As it is, one cannot very well regard it in any other light than as a part of the dealer's ordinary stock. Still, it must be said that there is something decidedly distinct and special about it, as seen in the pharmacist's window.

In this country, at least, the shape of the vase or vases (for there are generally three or four) and their color, are not subject to any rule; and in fact there are a few stores in which there are none. The favorite colors seem to be light green, claret, light blue and amber.

It is very probable that the presence of special colored liquids in show-bottles does not date back much farther than, if as far as, 1617—the time when the apothecaries became a distinct class from grocers in England. Certainly, some of the beautiful shades of color are very modern.—*Meyer Bros.' Druggist*.

Don't Depend on Memory.

DOUBTLESS many merchants, says an exchange, each lose hundreds of dollars annually through a defective memory. A failure to make a charge at once for goods is often likely to result in loss or an error, and a disputed account is something a good merchant invariably endeavors to avoid.

A merchant may think he can wait upon two or three customers at once, charge their accounts and keep everything straight, but it takes a wonderful head to do it.

If a storekeeper does not have time to go to his desk and charge up the goods sold to each customer, he should have a small memorandum book always at hand, in which to make a note of the things purchased and price paid for them. It is not very much trouble for him to do this, and it will repay him many times the extra labor it imposes on him before the end of the year.

Another bad policy is to forget to deliver goods at specified hour. Often, by trusting to his memory, the merchant or clerk overlooks the matter, and the customer is put to great annoyance and inconvenience because the goods fail to materialize. It taxes the patience of the housekeeper to be compelled to send twice for goods. A merchant or clerk should never promise to do anything at a given time unless he knows very well he can perform it, and when he agrees to perform any office of the character referred to he should not allow it, under any circumstance to slip from his memory. Therefore, in writing out an order which is to be delivered, make a memorandum of the time of delivering and have the goods at their destination on or before the hour when they are expected.

Careful attention to the details of business like those enumerated above contribute a great deal to the success of the retail storekeeper. A neglect of these is often one of the causes of failure.

Medicinal Qualities of Nutmegs.

THE medicinal qualities of nutmegs are worthy of considerable attention on account of their value in the treatment of diarrhoea, many cases quickly yielding to the administration of half a drachm in milk. Insomnia may be quickly relieved by them when opium fails and chloral is not advisable. It is also a sedative in delirium tremens, and can be given with safety and marked benefit. An excellent ointment for itching and irritable hemorrhoids is composed of two drachms of powdered nutmegs, one drachm of tannic acid, and one ounce of lard (*Medical Bulletin*).—*Dietetic Gazette*.

An English physician, Dr. Lennox Wainwright, affirms that a mixture of menthol and carbonate of ammonia has proven to be the best remedy for hay fever. It is used as smelling salts.