

**Uranalysis by the Pharmacist.\***

By G. W. PARSON.

The analysis of urine by the pharmacist is a field of labor he can enter with the assurance of becoming competent to do the work satisfactorily.

We are looking every way in these times of close competition to attract trade to our places of business and increase the sales legitimately in our line. Many of the side lines we have been persuaded to put in seem out of place in business devoted to the science of pharmacy, and a small income is derived from their sale considering the time used and the space they occupy, but where to draw the line in this respect is very hard to define. Many pharmacists, especially in smaller towns and cities, have made some examinations of urine for physicians, qualitatively, as to the presence of albumen or sugar, and are not altogether strangers to the method of applying the tests, but to go farther and apply other tests intelligently and be sure of every step of the way, requires a more extended knowledge and experience, especially when is added to the qualitative tests quantitative analysis and microscopical examination for all the sediments in the urine, which are of so much importance to the physician in his diagnosis.

It will be a great saving of time to any one desirous of doing this work, if he is not a graduate of pharmacy, to attend a special course in some college of pharmacy and receive instruction in qualitative and quantitative analysis of urine, and careful instruction in the use of the microscope, so he may be able to determine accurately all the different sediments in the urine.

My experience has been similar to many others, I think, in this respect, for many years having examined specimens for physicians in my city, to determine the presence of albumen or sugar, but when a more extended examination was required, the specimen was sent to New York for examination. This became of such frequent occurrence that I determined to equip myself for the work and keep the trade at home. I found, on inquiry, that the New York College of Pharmacy, in their post-graduate course, embraced urine analysis with microscopical examination; so I entered the course for that study, realizing by so doing how little I knew about it before, but I had the satisfaction of knowing when the

course was completed that the instruction that I had received fitted me to do the work intelligently. I called the attention of the physicians within our city and those within a radius of thirty miles, to the fact that I had added uranalysis to my other work and was prepared at all times to give the work my personal attention, enclosing them a circular letter with the prices charged, and also a copy of the report sheet showing the different tests employed in the work, and the nature of the report they would receive.

The result cannot be told in direct added income, which in itself has more than paid for the money expended to do the work correctly, the professional standing it gives one and the store is very marked and gratifying, and has been the means of added business in many ways. It is also a means of direct advertisement for you, from the physician to the patient, for often some one from the sick room, or the patients themselves will bring you a specimen for examination, and either wait or call for report to take to the physician, and if a prescription is written they will naturally select you to prepare it for them.

The tests that I use are easily prepared, and with a little experience one may become proficient in their use. For albumen, I find the ferrocyanic test the best, and use Heller's or Purdy's test as a balance test. For sugar, I use Haines' test, as it is very sensitive. Fehling's test to verify it is necessary.

For the centrifuge to determine the percentage amount of albumen I use the ferrocyanic test, and while making this test, I employ another tube to sediment a specimen for the microscope.

I would advise the use of a centrifuge, as it saves a great deal of time, and enables you to get the percentage amount of albumen, chlorides, phosphates, and sediments, casts, uric acid, calcium oxalate and foreign bodies quickly.

As a reference book in the work, I prefer Purdy's Uranalysis, but I have several others to consult, if necessary; but Purdy's to me seems the most comprehensive. I have a space in the laboratory reserved for the work, and find many uses for the test solutions in every-day work.

The diazo test suggested by Ehrlich for typhoid fever has proved of great value to the physicians in our city. I have made a great number of tests for them to determine whether the case was typhoid or malarial.

The fact of your being competent to do such work will bring other analytical work to you, and will give you a reputation and professional standing far above the ordinary pharmacist or druggist. There is certainly room for advancement in the professional side of our work, and it will help in a large measure to solve the problem of what shall we do to help ourselves in these days of cutting prices.

Pharmacy to-day is certainly making larger demands than ever before for scientific ability and training, and our colleges of pharmacy are keeping pace with the demand, by extended courses of instruction and requirements for more thorough work from its students.

Boards of pharmacy are asked to keep the standard high and make the qualifications for examination nothing short of being a graduate of some college of pharmacy. With all these calls for a higher education sounding through the pharmaceutical circles, every one should try to aid as individuals to bring up the standard of pharmacy in our land.

**Rapid Preparation of a Fine Zinc Ointment.**

By A. B. BURROWS.\*

The difficulty in making a smooth ointment of zinc oxide free from lumps is overcome, I find by experiment, by making a paste of the oxide with water and incorporating therewith an equal bulk or slightly less of lanum, then adding gradually, with trituration or stirring, cold or hot white petrolatum. The cold process works better, but if hot petrolatum is used it should be heated but slightly above its congealing point. I have produced in this way a zinc ointment of perfect smoothness and whiteness, and superior to that made in any other manner. This procedure is available for the extemporaneous preparation of any combination of the oxide in ointments.

The working formula would be as follows for a U.S.P. strength:

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| Zinc Oxide.....    | 20 parts |
| Water .....        | 20 parts |
| Lanum .....        | 10 parts |
| White Petrolatum.. | 50 parts |

\*Merck's Report.

Druggist—Pills, my dear?  
 Little Girl—Yes, please, sir.  
 Druggist—Anti-bilious?  
 Little girl—No. Uncle is.

\*Read before the American Pharmaceutical Association