

loeen" is tolerably easy, but looks better when written a pennyworth of sugar of lead for a lotion. "Penneth of gentle root" is converted into a pennyworth of gentian root.

Citrate of magnesia is asked for indifferently as "fizzing magnish," "cigarette magnisher," and "boiling magnesia"; whilst seidlitz powders becomes "settler's powders" and "sedget's powders."

A servant girl came in recently for a tablet of "cast-iron" soap. I suggested "Castile," to which she assented, with the remark, "Oh, yes, I knew it was some sort of metal the missis said." Laudanum or tincture of opium is largely used amongst the poorer classes, alike for mother and child; the mother takes it for "that nasty tickling cough" or "them pains," and administers a few drops to the child, "just to get him to sleep, he is so cross, and I can't get on with my work."

In this country men do not seem addicted to the use of opium nearly so much as women; at any rate, if they do indulge in it they must send the women for it, as we have twenty female customers for it to one male; perhaps the explanation lies in the fact that men fly to the nearest "pub" and drink to drown their sorrows, whereas women indulge in the drug at home in greater privacy and at less cost.

The opium habit once contracted is even more deadly and worse to shake off than alcoholism. Amongst the better classes "my lady," after a night of excitement and pleasure, retires to her couch, and, finding sleep coy, woos the soothing god by swallowing a tiny pellet, which is composed either of morphia (an alkaloid obtained from opium) or chloral, from which chloroform is manufactured.

Until quite recently a woman came to my establishment for eight ounces of laudanum regularly every day, and I have seen her drink four ounces of it off at one draught in the shop. When you take into consideration the fact that four ounces of laudanum contains the active ingredients of 132 grains of opium, and that three grains is the maximum dose sanctioned by the Pharmacopœia, some idea may be formed as to how far the habit has grown on her. This is one of the worst features in the use of this drug—viz., the longer you take it the more you have to take to produce the desired effect until ultimately as much may be taken in one dose (as in the above case) as would poison a score of people not accustomed to its use.

Until the prices of patent medicine were "cut" so much by "stores" and grocers, some of our most profitable customers were those who, imagining that they suffer from chronic malady, are ever ready to try each new nostrum as it is placed on the market.

As a rule, they come in with a most lugubrious countenance, and tell you that they have been to six doctors and are no better. "Do you think that Brown's Bileous Bitters will do me any good?" My reply is generally guarded "My yes, they might; you can but try them." They

take a bottle and go away contented, only to return in a few days to see if I don't think that Bland's Beansed Balsam is better suited to their symptoms.—*Tit-Bits*.

Artificial Almonds.

ACCORDING to the *Lancet*, artificial bitter almonds are now being manufactured. The false seeds are composed chiefly of grape sugar, with an extremely small quantity of nitro-benzole, which gives them the flavor of oil of bitter almonds. They are pressed in a mould, which causes their external appearance to resemble natural almonds so well that when a number of the false seeds are mixed with the true ones, the deception is exceedingly difficult to detect by mere inspection. Owing to the low price of the false seeds, the adulteration is, of course, highly profitable.

The Iodide of Carvacrol.

CARVACROL, an isomere of thymol, gives iodated derivatives possessed of properties analogous to those of the iodated derivatives of phenol and corresponding acids. The iodide of carvacrol occurs in the form of a yellowish-brown powder, insoluble in water, slightly soluble in alcohol, readily soluble in ether, chloroform, and olive oil. It does not decompose under the influence of light, and has been recommended as a substitute for aristol.—*Journal de Médecine de Paris*.

Books and Magazines.

3,000 questions on medical subjects for self examinations; cloth, 144 pages; P. Blakiston, Sons & Co., Philadelphia. This work of suitable size for the vest pocket contains questions on anatomy, materia medica, therapeutics, chemistry, etc., and is a valuable help to the medical student or practitioner. The work will be sent free to all medical students sending ten cents to the publisher to cover expense of mailing, wrapping, etc.

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A BEAUTIFUL SOUVENIR.—Splendid illustrations, supplements, literary features and artistic arrangement; beautiful engravings, charming stories, sketches and poems, wit and humor, in delightful combination in the Christmas number of the *Dominion Illustrated* for 1891. No expense will be spared to make it the most magnificent holiday souvenir ever issued in Canada. Published by the Sabiston Litho. & Pub. Co., Montreal.

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TABLES FOR DOCTOR AND DRUGGIST, by E. H. Long, M. D., Professor of Materia Medica, Buffalo College of Pharmacy; 133 pages, price \$2; George S. Davis, Toronto. This work contains tables of solubilities, reactions and incompatibilities, doses and uses of medicine, specific gravities, and poisons and antidotes. The work has been carefully compiled and should prove useful as a ready reference for the pharmacist as well as the physician.

A TYPE OF CANADIAN BEAUTY.—A Type of Canadian Beauty, a Study from Life, is the title of an oil painting executed specially by the celebrated artist, J. W. L. Forster, R. C. A., of Toronto, for the Christmas number of the *Dominion Illustrated*. This painting is conceded to be one of Mr. Forster's best works, and will form one of the four splendid supplements to be given away with the unrivalled Christmas number which the publishers of the *Dominion Illustrated* have now in preparation.

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SOME idea of what the illustration of a magazine means, may be obtained from the announcement that the publishers of the *Cosmopolitan* paid Madeleine Lemaire for the illustration of "Three Women of the Comedie Francaise" ten times the amount paid for the article. Madame Lemaire is one of the most famous of French illustrators, and her work in the *Cosmopolitan* this month is accompanied by that of Kate H. Greatorox, A. F. Jacassy, F. G. Attwood, Dan. C. Beard, W. H. Goater, F. G. S. Bryce, C. R. Grant and others. The illustration of the *Cosmopolitan* has always been one of its special features, but this month it exceeds in this respect all previous numbers.

Amelie Rives' striking story "According to St. John" is brought to a dramatic close in this number. No other piece of current fiction by an American author has attracted so wide attention as this tale of Paris life, and the concluding pages fully sustain the interest awakened by the earlier chapters.

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"DRUNKENNESS IS CURABLE," is the title of an article in the October number of the *North American Review* which is destined to attract wide attention. It is written by Mr. John F. Mines, a well known New York journalist, and a gentleman of unquestioned character for veracity. After a heroic fight for more than twenty years against the power of the drink-habit, and taking treatment in a number of institutions conducted specially for that purpose, all without success, he placed himself under the care of Dr. Keeley, at Dwight, Ill., where in six weeks he was completely cured. "The disease is out of my blood and bones," says Mr. Mines, "and I know it is out forever."

He then gives in graphic style an account of his own experience under the Keeley treatment of drunkenness, which he regards as one of the greatest of medical discoveries, and a blessing to humanity which cannot be overestimated.

To be appreciated our possessions must have cost us their full value.

Customs vary in different countries, but politeness is the same the world over.

Platinum and Palladium have been obtained as brilliant octahedral crystals by Prof. Joly, of Dublin.