

of impurities of mineral and vegetable origin, the latter being the most frequent since their presence is harder to detect.

One of the principal falsifications is the substitution of the violet flowers for the yellow, the price of which latter is much higher than that of the violet variety. The product thus obtained is much grayer and far less active than that of the genuine yellow flower. There are certain other inert vegetable products, used as falsifications, whose presence is much more difficult to detect, though the microscope in every instance, if it will not show the nature of the adulterant, will determine its existence.

The Capsule was too Large.

A. I. Husted, of Armstrong & Co., went into Lyman & Sloan's drug store on Main street, Buffalo, a few days ago and asked for a dose of castor oil. It was given to him in the form of a capsule. It takes a pretty good sized capsule to contain two table spoonfuls, and a rather large throat to swallow one. When the clerk produced the capsule Mr. Husted refused to take it, saying it was too large for a horse. The clerk laughed at this. Finally Mr. Husted decided to take the capsule, which was half the size of a hen's egg. In a moment he was choking. The envelope of the castor oil, instead of going down, remained in the throat, and it was apparent that medical aid was necessary.

Several doctors were summoned, and after hard work succeeded in dissolving the capsule. They said Mr. Husted had a narrow escape.

But this was not satisfactory to the clerk, Mr. Weston. "You fellows don't know anything," said he. "I'll show you how to take these capsules."

Thrusting one into his mouth, he proceeded to show Mr. Husted and the doctors how the trick should be accomplished. But the bolus stuck in his throat also, and despite his extraordinary efforts he choked till he was black and blue in the face. Hot water was poured down his throat, and the capsule finally dissolved, but not before he began to think his life was in danger. He will never take any more big capsules of castor oil.

FLEXIBLE GLASS.—According to M. Ebstein, a substance as transparent as glass, flexible and strong, and capable of resisting the action of acids and alkalis, may be prepared as follows: Four to eight parts of collodion cotton are dissolved in a mixture of alcohol and ether, .02 to .04 parts of castor oil (or some other non-drying oil) and .04 to .1 part of resin or Canada balsam are added. This mixture is dried on a glass plate in a current of warm air at 50°. It is far less inflammable than ordinary collodion and is very durable, and can easily be used as glass. With a little zinc oxide a white so called artificial ivory is obtained.—*Union Pharmaceutique.*

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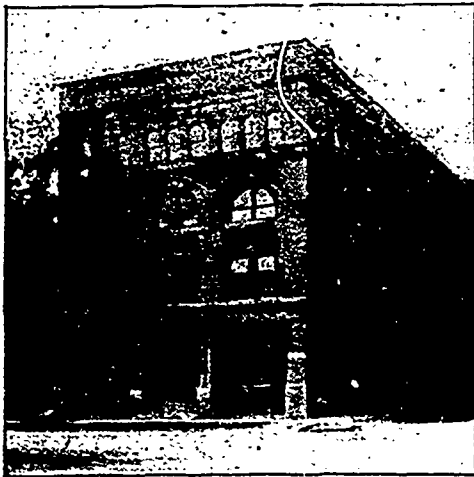
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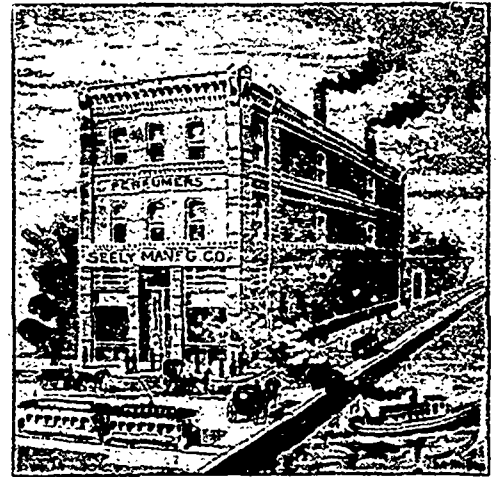


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