

"The Druggist's Fight for Privilege."

Under this heading, the *Whitehall Review* of July 28th last, publishes the following pertinent article on a matter of great moment to chemists and druggists at the present time:—

In all ages, and in most parts of the world, there has always been two classes of humanity more or less at war with each other. The first represents those who, through the labour of themselves or their forefathers, possess something of current value; the other is composed of men not so fortunate. An opposition of interests, resulting from these facts, is productive of an everlasting contention, which exhibits its resources in, and by, methods as multitudinous as the numberless exigencies accruing to a state of civilization. This postulate has been illustrated by a recent case, thrice fought out, with identical results, in our courts of law. We have all heard of Derby; but to admit a rooted knowledge of the existence of an individual named Armson of that place is quite another matter. Yet he lives, he sells, he fights. We have heard no hint of a pugilistic encounter, and yet the pother is all around a box of pills. Why should a grocer not sell pills? Some people may find it hard to swallow the bolus; but the Local Court, the Divisional Court, and the Court of Appeal all say that a patent pill, if possessing a poisonous potion, should only be procured from a pharmacist. This is the momentous question just decided for the third time of asking. Thus the chemist, for once, have scored a conquest.

Now, apart from all facetious surroundings and considerations, there is a great principle of government connected with this contest. It re-opens the problem of class privilege. In the good old days, when trade guilds held paramount sway in their several restricted spheres, it would have been practically impossible for a bricklayer to become a tailor. And even now, amongst a very different part of the community, such an artist of the humorous as Toole is not considered capable of assuming the tactical responsibilities of an Evelyn Wood. Through the decades of the past a judicious division of labor has developed the majestic resources of our glorious empire. But it may be that the growth of freedom has enfeebled the roots of freedom, from which prosperity evolves. And this aphorism seems to be becoming manifest amongst those persons who are sometimes contemptuously called middlemen—such distributors of the necessaries of life as chemists and grocers.

Now, a chemist is more or less educated man who has passed through the ordeal of an examination, and obtained the license of the State to deal in physic and deadly drugs. With him knowledge and business are co-ordinate factors of existence. He studies for the purposes of business, and he subjugates business to

the end of acquiring a better knowledge of his semi-profession. But a grocer is usually quite a different kind of individual. He orders sugar by the ton, and mixes tea by rule, and the one simple problem with which he continually grapples is how to multiply, or, at any rate, preserve intact, the capital with which he commenced business. Such a man is not qualified to vend poisons and medicine—not even patent physic. Yet, assuming that the grocer is competent to sell a tin of lozenges, not knowing or caring of what deleterious substances they may be composed, it is not equity to transfer easy business from the chemist to the grocer, and leave the former to exist as best he may upon the diminished scope of mutilated privilege.

It may appear trivial to maintain that a grocer is not likely to be sufficient master of a chemist's special knowledge to become his legalised competitor, but it is not customary in time of war for generals and admirals to exchange duties. It is very questionable if the transference of a part of the liquor traffic from publicans to grocers has been a beneficial proceeding, and it seems equally undesirable to allow "universal providers" to dispense mechanically, by weight or measure, any medicinal substance, whether patented or not, of the chemical qualities of which they are almost necessarily ignorant.

So far, then, as the particular matter in question is concerned, it appears to be in accordance with the fitness of things that chemists should be allowed to appropriate a monopoly in the sale of drugs. But this reflection suggests a consideration of one of the fundamentals of political economy. While the liberty of the subject necessitates a scope for the exercise of individualism, the protection of the subject requires a socialistic restriction of desultory action—we mean to say that there is, was, and will be, a certain socialism of classes, by which lawyers, doctors, plumbers, and most other trades and professions, combine for the maintenance of their particular privileges, to the exclusion of all other men, to a very great extent, from the advantages of their various combinations. This conservative socialism is good, because it has a tendency to develop efficiency.

It may be hard for a man who has not been articleed or apprenticed to find it difficult to make headway in life, but a "Jack-of-all-trades," without a thorough knowledge of anything in particular, can never be a producer of the best work, whether mechanical or professional. There are indications on all hands, notwithstanding the prevalence of Liberal and Radical ideas, that greater value will be given to the almost obsolete plan of apprenticeship and the motto of "every man to his trade." Such a reverting to old-fashioned methods is desirable, as being calculated to promote that stability of government which results from a consciousness in men that the State is protecting their individual privileges and well earned prosperity.—*Phar. J. and Trans.*

Home Made Extract of Boof.

JACOB PRICE, M. D., West Chester, Pa.

A reliable and palatable extract of beef, that can be quickly prepared, and at less cost than most of the preparations of this class upon the market, is an important desideratum. I have found such an extract made in the following manner very satisfactory. It is somewhat in the line of Liebig's original formula.

Take of official hydrochloric acid $\text{f } \overline{\text{v}} \text{ i}$; essence of pepsin (Fairchild's, I have commonly used), $\text{f } \overline{\text{v}} \text{ ij}$, and mix them. Of this mixture three teaspoonfuls are to be added to one pound of finely minced lean beef and placed in a quart jar, which is to be nearly filled with cold water. The jar should be tightly covered, the mixture well shaken, and the shaking repeated every half hour. It must be kept cool in hot weather on ice. After two hours it will be ready for use.

The amount ordinarily taken at one time would be about $\text{f } \overline{\text{v}} \text{ ij}$. This should be salted to taste, and five drops of tincture of capsicum added. Where there is much objection to the taste, a little Burgundy wine may be added.

These directions may appear to some to include an amount of unnecessary detail, but in the preparation of such an extract, as in most other matters in medicine and surgery, it is careful attention to detail that alone insures success. Frequently it is necessary to especially emphasize the instructions as to shaking, and the avoidance of boiling or in any way heating the preparation. The beef should be allowed to remain in the jar till all is used that can be taken up with a spoon; then considerably more of the extract can be obtained by turning the beef out into a strong linen towel and twisting it firmly.

Such a concentrated, partly digested food is particularly indicted in cases of gastric catarrh, and in other conditions, acute or chronic, attended with deficiency of the normal secretions of the stomach. I also depend very much upon it in cases of typhoid fever and pneumonia. It is more readily assimilated than any other article of food that I know of.—*Phil. Poly. Jour.*

TO DISTINGUISH GALLIC AND TANNIC ACIDS. Frederick Davis, in a note to the *Chemist and Druggist*, says. The following is a distinguishing test for gallic and tannic acids respectively, hitherto, I believe unknown and unpublished. Tannic acid. To a solution of tannic acid add solution of potash and solution of chloride of barium, a pink precipitate results, gradually darkening. Gallic acid: To a solution of gallic acid add solution of potash and solution of chloride of barium, a blue precipitate results.

DAPHNIPHYLLINE is a cardiac poison, possessing strong narcotic powers over the central nervous system. It is an extract of *Daphniphyllum bancanum*.