

CORRESPONDENCE.

Correspondence is invited from all members of the profession. We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions of correspondents. All communications must have the name of the writer attached, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. Any nom de plume may be used for publication. Write only on one side of the paper, and be concise.

Profitable Extras.

To the Editor:

SIR,—When reading Mr. Muir's address, delivered before the Druggists' Association in September, on the suitability of the scientific fitting of spectacles as an adjunct to the drug business, it may have occurred to many of our fellow druggists there were also other lines which might be properly assumed without detracting from the respectability of the profession. We refer more particularly to photography.

On account of the simplification of the forms of the camera and the decreased expense with which the science may be pursued, any druggist in the average town of Canada could, after a short personal experience in the use of the instruments and chemicals necessary, be in a position to create and foster a demand for photographic goods among amateurs. There is already a large trade done in this line, but it is in the hands of a few houses in the cities, and it is just now that the druggists in the country are looking for remunerative side lines that this suggestion might be looked into with benefit.

Of course, there has always been a limited trade done with the professional photographers, and this trade would not be interfered with, professionals as a rule being willing to encourage amateurs in the pursuit of this pastime. A small outlay in the cheaper lines of amateur chemicals, cameras, dry plates, etc., would be sufficient to start with, and no doubt the large houses would be willing to supply samples of cameras on commission. The chemicals and dry plates would become in constant demand and could be bought in the best market, which for cameras and dry plates is perhaps in the U. S.

Though it is perhaps late in the season to broach this idea, it will be well worth while to look into the matter during the winter so as to be ready to try it in the spring.

It is in fields like the above where special knowledge is required that we must look for help in the future, and the druggist who is keen to discover and to enter into fresh channels of trade which will not injure his drug business is going to be the man who will succeed in the state to which the drug trade appears to be drifting.

We only need to look to the old country to find a precedent for commencing an amateur photo trade, the druggist over there having been in the business for years and they find it pays.

J. C.

Emol.

Emol is a provisional name given to a newly discovered product which in ordinary respects is allied to fuller's earth, but which is distinct from all market varieties of this substance. It is a product found in Perthshire, England, closely associated with serpentine marble, chalcidony, onyx, and copper. It contains stentite and minute traces of lime and oxide of iron. (*British Medical Journal*). When purified it is a soft, delicately pink, impalpable powder, which produces no gritty sensation when placed on the tongue. It has a powerful softening effect upon hard lime water, and can be used with warm water as a natural soap, leaving the hands soft and smooth. But constant use of emol as a cleansing agent results in so great a softening of the skin on the hands that they become unfit for use, and this fact has suggested its employment in removing callosities and horny excrescences upon the palms and soles. In this application it was found very successful, a paste being made with water and thickly applied, resulting in the peeling off in layers of the epidermic masses.—*Amer. Soap Journal*.

Gutta-Percha.

O. OSTERLE.

Gutta-percha (preferably getah-pertcha) is a collective name applying to the product obtained by the induration of the milk sap of several different trees, of which the one formerly best known, *Asouandra Gutta* (Hooker), or *Palaquium Gutta* has now almost disappeared, owing to the felling of the trees to obtain the juice, and their consequent destruction. According to Burek, several other species of *Palaquium* were employed in 1884 as sources of gutta-percha, notably *P. borneense*, *P. Trebii* and *P. leerii*. A somewhat similar juice is also yielded by other members of the sapotaceous family, but the products thus obtained from *Sideroxylon*, *Chrysophyllum*, and *Mimusops* are of little or no industrial value. The author has examined gutta-percha obtained from *P. leerii*, and found it practically identical with the ordinary commercial article; it consisted of gutta ($C_{10}H_{16}O_n$); alban, $C_{14}H_{24}O_2$; and shavil, ($C_{10}H_{16}O_n$), the latter being present in larger quantity in some specimens than in others, and producing a corresponding deteriorating effect on the physical qualities of the mass; whereas an increased proportion of alban seems to be without this effect.—*Arch. Pharm.*

VASOGEN, OR OXYGENATED MINERAL OIL.—Though formerly considered as neutral and non-oxidizable, later research has shown that the mineral oils contain acids and may be oxidized. Vasogen forms a permanent emulsion with water, and is a solvent for many medicaments.—*Phar. Ztg.*

Mark Twain's Latest—Romance of an Esquimaux Maiden.

A magazine is usually satisfied with one strong feature for the month. *The Cosmopolitan*, however, presents for November no less than five very unusual ones. William Dean Howells gives the first of the letters of the traveller, who has been visiting this country, from Altruria. We have read Mr. Howells' impression of the Altrurian; but in this first letter we have the Altrurian's impressions of New York, with some comments upon our government and society, calculated to awaken the most conservative minds. The second feature of *The Cosmopolitan* is the portion of the magazine given up to color work, no less than ten superb color illustrations being presented for the first time in magazine history, accompanying an article by Mrs. Roger A. Pryor on "Changes in Women's Costumes." The third feature is "American Notes," by Walter Besant, who was recently in America and is doing the United States for *The Cosmopolitan a la Dickens*. The fourth feature is an article by General Badeau on "The Forms of Invitation Used by the English Nobility." The article is illustrated by the facsimile of cards to the Queen's drawing-room, to dinner at the Princess of Wales, and to many leading houses of England. Finally, we have a new and very curious story by Mark Twain, called "The Esquimaux Maiden's Romance." It is in his happiest vein and is illustrated by Dan Beard. The November number presents the work of many artists, among whom are: C. S. Reinhart, Otto Guillonnet, J. H. Harper, G. Hudson, Franz von Lenbach, George Wharton Edwards, F. Schuyler Matthews, Dan Beard, W. L. Sontag, Jr., F. G. Attwood, C. Hirschberg, J. Habert-Dys, August Franzen, Louis J. Read, J. N. Hutchins and Hamilton Gibson.

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