

### Drug Review.

Business during the past month has been fair for the season; retailers complain very much about the amount of churning to be done.

Norway Cod Liver Oil will probably be dearer.

Mercurials are easier.

Morphias are easier.

Paris Green—large demand; price will gradually advance as stocks decrease.

Silver Nitrate has again advanced owing to an advance in the metal.

Salicylate Soda easier.

Cardamom Seeds advancing.

Oil Cloves easier.

Oil Lemon maintains advanced price.

Oil Peppermint if present crop prospects are borne out, will be scarce and higher.

Balsalm Copaiba—lower prices not probable.

Ergot lighter, stocks light.

Grains Paradise—higher and scarce.

Quinine—a gradual improvement in price is looked for.

Alcohol, owing to an increase in duty, has advanced about 40 cents a gallon. This amounts to almost a direct tax on the retailer as the advance is so small in proportion that higher retail prices cannot be realized, but to a fair retail business it makes a difference of about \$50 per year.

Sp. Nitre, Tinctures, &c., in fact, all alcoholic preparations will be higher in proportion to advance in Spirit.

Snuff is also 5c. a lb. higher.

Cayenne Pepper is higher.

Cocaine—late cable advices announce a further advance. We further learn that one large German factory is about to suspend manufacture owing to lack of raw material.

Cocain—higher and scarce.

### Testing Surgical Dressings.

N. Huss (*Zeitsch. für Anal. Chem.*) describes a method for valuation of iodine, iodoform, iodol and sozo-iodol dressings. These products when heated with metallic zinc, give up all of their iodine which combines with the zinc to form iodide of zinc.

One to five grammes of the material is introduced into a dry test-tube, 20 grammes chemically pure zinc dust added so that it will stand 2 cm. above the material even after shaking and the whole heated for some time in a water-bath. The zinc is then washed into a 500 c. c. flask and distilled water added to the mark and the whole shaken. To 250 c. c. of this solution a little sodium carbonate is added for the removal of the zinc, boiled, cooled and diluted to 500 c. c. After shaking and filtering 250 c. c. is taken and the iodine estimated according to Reinig (Fresenius Quant. Anal.) by titration with potassium permanganate. The me-

tallic zinc should be freed from oxide by washing with very dilute hydrochloric acid, then with water till all chlorine is removed, and lastly with alcohol.

To eliminate the error caused by the zinc the first dilution may be made to 503 c. c. as the volume of 20 grms. of zinc is very nearly 3. c. c. its sp. gr. being about 7.

For the estimation of mercuric chloride in antiseptic dressings H. Beckurts (*Pharm. Centralblatt*) recommends extracting the material with a solution of common salt and determining the bi-chloride of mercury according to Mohr's process by titrating with ammonium ferrous sulphate and determining the excess with potassium permanganate. When glycerine or other bodies interfering with the above reaction are present the bi-chloride of mercury is reduced with ferrous sulphate, the solution rendered alkaline with sodium hydrate, then acid with dilute sulphuric acid, and titrated with iodine in presence of an excess of potassium iodide. —*Erm.*

Be cautious. Don't be content with doing what another has done. Surpass it. Deserve success, and it will come. The boy was not born a man. The sun does not rise like a rocket, or go down like a bullet fired from a gun; slowly but surely it makes its round but never tires.

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