

to many of our readers that the pharmacies on the continent of Europe, and especially in Germany, bear such names as "The Lion Apotheke," "The Eagle Apotheke," "The Moor Apotheke," and similar designations.

NEW AND VALUABLE.—Another article formerly considered worthless has been added to the useful products, and is known as Miner India-rubber asphalt. It is produced during the process of refining tar by sulphuric acid, and forms a black material very much like ordinary asphalt, and elastic like India-rubber. When heated so that the slimy matter is reduced to about 60 per cent. of its former size, a substance is produced hard like ebony. It can be dissolved in naphtha, and is an excellent non-conductor of electricity, and, therefore, valuable for covering telegraph wires and other purposes where a non-conducting substance is needed. Dissolved, the mineral India-rubber produces a good water-proof varnish. The manufacture of the material is very profitable, and pays the inventor 400 or 500 per cent.

PRESERVATION OF SYRUPS, ETC., DURING SUMMER.—According to the Pharmaceutische Zeitung, syrups, fruit juices, purified honey, and the like, are best preserved during hot weather by putting them into small bottles which, after being completely filled, are stoppered with cotton-wool, and then sterilized for some time over a water-bath. The cotton-wool prevents the subsequent entrance of bacteria, and thus acts as an excellent preservative. This method, of course, is unsuitable in the case of articles destined to transportation. In sterilizing these, vessels of soldered tin should be employed, and the heat brought up to 110 degrees to 120 degrees C., by which all germs are certain to be destroyed. The color and taste of preparations are unaltered by this process; but fruit syrups, which contain an acid, must not be put up in tin.—[Circular, Sept. '89.]

ARSENIC IN GLYCERINE.—The statement made some time since that in Germany glycerine is met with containing arsenic has been confirmed, according to the Pharm. Jour. and Trans., and in addition it has been alleged that under the present conditions of manufacture in that country, all glycerine will contain more or less arsenic, derived from the sulphuric acid used in its production. The necessity for the insertion in the German Pharmacopœia of a test for arsenic in glycerine is, therefore, obvious, and one has been suggested by Dr. Vulpius (Apoth.-Zeit., April 10, p. 390). It requires that paper moistened with 50 per cent. solution of silver nitrate, when exposed to the hydrogen gas evolved upon adding zinc to a mixture 2 cc. of glycerine with 3 cc. of official hydrochloric acid, should not within fifteen minutes show any yellow spots becoming black upon being moistened with water.

THE VALUE OF TRADE JOURNALS TO EXPORTERS.—Mr. John Worthington, U.S. Consul at Malta, in his last communication to the

authorities at Washington, testifies as follows to the value of trade journals that find their way into Malta business: "The trade journals that find their way into Malta do very much in attracting the attention of the people to our goods. A Maltese will frequently buy an article on the strength of an illustration. I have sometimes thought it would be money well invested if the advertisers in the trade would combine to send out, and cause to be intelligently distributed, a goodly number of these trade journals. An illustrated advertisement is eagerly read. After this consulate has finished with the trade journals that are sent to it they are sent to Maltese casinos and clubs, where they are in great demand. I place them where I think they will do the most good."

WORKING HOURS IN PHARMACIES IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE.

BY AN ENGLISH CHEMIST.

Having passed two or three weeks in the South of France, I thought it might be of interest to some of your readers to know the working regulations of pharmacies in that part of the world. At Cannes, the first town I commenced my inquiries, I found the purely French pharmacies opened in summer between six and seven, in winter later; the mixed English and French pharmacies opened about seven o'clock. The assistants were expected to be at their posts, or, rather, behind the counters, between eight and nine; the usual time for closing all was ten at night, truly, according to English ideas of working, "long hours." In Nice I found much the same hours adopted by the mixed pharmacies, and the French ones in the more fashionable parts of the town; but in some of the poorer neighborhoods, especially near the market, I heard of pharmacies that opened at five o'clock in the summer, and six o'clock in the winter, and did not close till ten o'clock at night. In Mentone I also found the hours were longer than English ones; assistants were on duty from eight or half-past eight till ten. The assistants have some liberties not accorded to their English friends at home; for instance, dinner hours in many cases of one and a-half hours; after a certain time of the night, a back room where they can enjoy a cigar and invite a friend, and still be on duty; and frequent nights off from seven or eight.

During my journey I met that well-known English pharmacist, Mr. Squire, of San Remo, Italy, and amongst other questions, I asked his opinion on the probability of the "stores" in England being prohibited from dispensing prescriptions, etc. He replied that he did not how any stores could be stopped as long as the executive employed a qualified man. Until branch shops were closed his view was that no pharmacist ought to have more than one pharmacy, and that his name as owner ought to appear. He explained

that he did not mean that a pharmacy with a distinguished, or well known name, was to change that name, only that the existing proprietor should attach his name as well. That was, as far as his personal experience was concerned, the practice in several continental countries. He had known the pharmacies continue with the same sign (as a public house might), in Germany he had seen pharmacies with such names as the "White Hart," "Black Eagle," etc., for generations; but each succeeding owner always used his name as well, and the same owner was not allowed, on any excuse what ever, to have his name on more than one pharmacy, and every pharmacy must have its owner. In case of firms, however, consisting of two or more qualified pharmacians, the firm may open as many pharmacies as there are qualified members of the firm. For instance, Messrs. Nicholls and Passeron (both qualified men) have a pharmacy in Nice and another in St. Martin Lantosque.

HINTS ON SOLUTIONS.

The frequency in which in prescription dispensing in the laboratory and the drug store there is a necessity for making solutions, and the observation of the writer as to the clumsy and unscientific way in which it is often done, leads him to venture a few remarks on the subject. Solution indicates that a solid body is to be dissolved in some fluid, though liquids and gases may also be dissolved, but our remarks at present are meant to imply only the solution of solids.

Let us take a few instances. A prescription calls for quinine sulphate or some other chemical to be made into a solution. How often the writer has seen it placed in a graduated measure with a portion of the liquid, and stirred with a glass rod. That is well enough in its way, but the objection is only to the use of the graduated measure and the glass stirring-rod, especially if the latter scrapes the side of the graduate. If so, in time it becomes scratched and looks badly. I can always tell by the appearance of the graduates in a drug store if they use this method of solution.

My habit has been to avoid the use of a mortar or a graduate in making solutions. Where it is a substance that is very soluble it may be put at once in the bottle and (I always use) distilled water added, the solution being hastened by shaking.

If the substance is slowly soluble, put the material in a flask with a portion of the solvent, heat gently to make a solution, add the remainder and bring to normal temperature before dispensing. If the quantity of solid is more than is soluble in the amount of liquid ordered, two ways are open to the pharmacist—to dispense with the excess in a fine powder and a shake label, or to send out a filtered saturated solution. If the prescription orders but little more of the solid than