

Items of Interest

An Unconventional Cough Syrup

There are "cough syrups" without end. Some of them, it is needless to say, have little or no therapeutic value. Conversely, there are some that no physician need hesitate to prescribe. One of these—Syrup Cocillana Compound (P. D. & Co.)—is so exceptional in many particulars as to be worthy of special mention just now, when coughs are so plentifully in evidence. By its name no one would recognize it as a preparation for "coughs" and "colds," and this, in connection with its general efficiency, constitutes one of its chief claims to distinction. It is a product which the layman knows nothing about. It does not encourage counter-prescription or self-medication. It was designed especially with reference to the needs of the prescriptionist.

The formula of Syrup Cocillana Compound, which of course is plainly printed on the label, is quite unusual. Let us briefly consider its components: *Euphorbia pilulifera*—serviceable in the treatment of chronic bronchitis and emphysema; wild lettuce—a mild and harmless narcotic, useful in spasmodic and irritable coughs; cocillana—valuable expectorant, tonic and laxative, exerts an influence on the respiratory organs similar to that of ipecac; syrup squill compound—serviceable in subacute or chronic bronchitis, as an expectorant, and as an emetic in croup; cascarn—the bitter glucoside of *cascara sagrada*, useful for its laxative action; heroin hydrochloride—a derivative of morphine and extensively prescribed in the treatment of cough, especially of bronchial origin; menthol—stimulant, refrigerant, carminative and antiseptic, serviceable in coughs of pharyngeal origin.

Syrup Cocillana Compound would seem to be worthy of extensive prescription.

In the amenorrhea of "shop-girls" debilitated by overwork and insufficient exercise, ErgoapioI (Smith) has proved particularly beneficial. It is likewise notably serviceable in scanty menstruation of women who have borne children in rapid succession.

In cases of acute suppression arising from sudden exposure to cold or dampness, change of climate, shock or similar causes, the preparation should be administered in doses of one capsule three or four times a day until the function has been re-established.

When the amenorrhea is of long standing and due to general debility, anemia, sexual depression or other systematic impairments, one capsule should be administered night and morning throughout the intermenstrual period.