

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS ON THE COPYING, FILING AND DATING OF PRESCRIPTIONS.

It is the pride of every modern pharmacist to be "topmost" in the number of his prescriptions, and to sail gaily it is necessary to duplicate many prescriptions which by reason of the customer's ownership, or the design of the writer, would be taken from the pharmacist's file, were they let go without copying or without an increase in number in the succeeding prescription, the pharmacist would then be so many below in the number of his prescriptions actual to the number not duplicated or accounted for.

It is therefore necessary to copy many prescriptions which otherwise would not cause an increase to the aggregate. It will be found a great saving of explanation to copy the prescription unknown to a customer, unless the pharmacist is previously privileged to do so, because the average customer thinks his or her particular prescription is of ordinary value, of which the pharmacist wishes to take possession.

There are many different ways of performing this little act, and generally each pharmacist has his own idea. Some prefer a verbatim copy, others change the Latin to the English or vernacular, and vice-versa. Where the original is written in the correct English or Latin pharmacopoeial titles, then a verbatim copy is the best method. Where the ingredients are indicated in the common or vernacular then the correct English or Latin titles should be used.

In many prescriptions and family formulas, some ingredients are so titled that they indicate a medicine different from that really wanted; this is often forcibly illustrated in the ammonias. In the copying of such prescriptions the ingredients should be titled under their correct English or pharmacopoeial titles, with the vernacular title opposite in parenthesis, not forgetting, however, to add quotation marks which will exhibit the article dispensed and show the misnomer.

It often proves serviceable to number the original as well as the copy, and the price attached in your individual mark, will often be appreciated by some other member of the firm who may be called upon to refill the same in the event of your absence.

Regarding the filing of prescriptions not much is left to say. The author has used the following method which offers at all times quick access to some "back date" prescription.

Beginning with the first 100 prescriptions, pass a very strong piece of twine through their upper right-hand corner and attach to it on each side a heavy piece of cardboard a little larger than the prescription. Tie the two ends of the twine loosely against the prescriptions, leaving a few inches slack in the ends. On the outside of both cardboards write plainly the beginning and closing number; also the beginning and closing dates,

Construct each succeeding hundred the same, and with the slack ends tie to the preceding hundred. When a thousand has been reached place them in a suitable box, recording on one end the beginning and closing number, and the same regarding the dates, and then keep the whole at some place convenient to the prescription case.

The label should embody the number, name of the patient, name of physician, and while the date may be attached, it is unnecessary where it appears on the prescription, and the number, etc., is plainly written. Whenever the label printers issue a prescription label of unsized paper, with a plain white ground, unruled and devoid of illustrative cuts, grotesque type, etc., they will fill a long felt want. In the writing of the directions, where the original is English, one should try to use the same language, word for word, if correctly written. It is a matter of sore regret to the pharmacist to contend with the directions as they often appear on a prescription. While in his own mind he understands the intention of the writer, he knows that owing either to their brevity, ambiguity or ill-form, the patient will not understand them. He does not like to take the liberty of expressing the directions in a plainer manner, and yet he foresees the confusion the patient will experience (unless previously directed) if not somewhat altered. In such a case he should do the best under the circumstances, adding only as few words as possible to express the intention of the prescriber. Every pharmacist should have a price card stating the price of prescription from 1 oz. to 16, and (where the medicine is not an important factor and no extra skill is required) he should stick to the prices. Of course this only applies to bona fide prescriptions, and not family recipes, hog-powders, etc. Could this be made universal much complaint would be saved, and the pharmacist's life would be a happier one.—[F. V. Kniest, in West. Drug.

A GREAT INDUSTRY.

If there is one native industry more than another which has made gigantic progress in development during the last few years the manufacturing of cigars may surely be pointed to as a typical instance. From a comparatively small matter it has risen to be one of the most important, engaging thousands of skilled workers and producing millions annually of the fragrant weed. Not very many years (and it is so yet to a small extent), nothing but an imported cigar would be smoked, to talk about a "domestic" among the better-to-do people meant being laughed at. Now, however, the tables are turned, thanks to such a firm as that of Messrs. S. Davis & Sons, of Montreal, who, by going direct into the markets, ordering the best tobacco grown, by studiously buying only the finest stocks, by the introduction of the latest improvements in manufacture, by unwearied

patience, by an energy and determination which never faltered, and which casts a ray of lustre on their indomitable enterprise, have abundantly succeeded in placing their various high class brands on a far higher plane of merit than the imported article, and have so thoroughly established their manufactures among the most knowing connoisseurs, as well as among the general public, that they are esteemed over all competitors, foreign or domestic, and so highly are they appreciated that though their factory is by far the largest in Canada, the demand is so incessant that it is almost hopeless to compete with it. To do this more effectually, further important additions are to be shortly made, and more hands will be taken on in the hope of "catching up." As a further testimony to the genuine merits of Messrs. Davis & Sons' cigars, they point with pride to the score of gold and silver medals awarded, the highest prizes being given them wherever they have competed, including even the great Centennial gold medal in competition against the world, whilst of Dominion, provincial and local mementoes of success over Canadian manufacturers, they have enough to decorate an emperor. Such a record deserves more than a passing exordium of commendation, and it is therefore with peculiar pleasure that we draw attention to the proud achievements of a Canadian house whose productions are known and valued from one end of confederation to the other, and at the same time affords such a brilliant success among our industries.

THE PROPOSED CINCHONA SYNDICATE.

Baron von Rosenberg, the Indian cinchona planter, whose efforts to create a "ring" among the cinchona planters we recently noticed, has again been writing on this pet subject of his. He asserts that the elasticity of the market has been damaged beyond the mere question of supply and demand by the power the "bears" have got over the quinine market, especially on the continent and in America. This is totally unwarranted by stocks of bark or quinine, and that especially as the figures in the latter, being fluctuating, are always overestimated. But the fact is there, and after ever so small a rise bears will send down their market again immediately until stocks are actually depleted. He wishes to support a rising market if possible and help the quinine manufacturers to join hands with the planters in ousting mere speculation. At present it hardly pays manufacturers to manufacture, and were it not for the often disorganization of producers, it would not pay them at all. The only way they make it pay is this: Bark of low analysis, analysing, say, 1.45 per cent., is only bought in at the unit rate for 1 per cent., i.e. they clear nearly half a unit. This, of course, cannot be done with bark of a high analysis, as owing to 1 lb of bark analysing