

A Notable Event.

Seventy Drug Merchants from Philadelphia inspect the Immense Establishment of Johnson & Johnson.

Nearly 70 of the leading and representative wholesale and retail druggists of Philadelphia, accompanied by several surgeons and doctors of the same place, recently inspected the immense laboratories and factories of Johnson & Johnson, the manufacturing chemists and originators and makers of many plasters and surgeons dressings, whose factory is situated at New Brunswick, N. J.

The visit was made at their invitation that these druggists—an infinitely small fraction of the drug merchants who handle the goods of the firm throughout the world—might study and examine minutely the many operations and processes used in the factory to produce the goods that are now being handled by surgeons and physicians everywhere. Moreover, the event is the first of its kind to occur in New Brunswick—the inspection of the city's big manufacturies by the sellers of its goods.

The delegation of druggists arrived shortly after 10 a. m. They were met at the depot by the Messrs. Johnson and escorted to the factory, which is so advantageously located on the west bank of the Raritan river.

Arriving at the factory the druggists were taken in charge by the Messrs. Johnson and their assistants and were shown the work being done in all of the 14 buildings and the 24 departments of the immense establishment, every department being operated.

The growth of the manufactory has been simply wonderful during the seven years that it has been located in this city, coming here as a small plaster factory of one department in 1887. This development would appear incomprehensible was the fact not realized that from the beginning the Messrs. Johnson have sought at all times to provide a field for themselves by inventing new channels of trade, and producing articles entirely new in use and purpose or that were formerly imperfectly made or difficult to procure.

During their visit at the manufactory they learned that there are 14 buildings now occupied, three of which have been erected during the past year and several others are being built. There are 125,000 square feet of floor space occupied, while the hundred or more complicated machines in use for various purposes are propelled by five engines of 300 horse power. In the buildings are fire pumps having a capacity of using 750 gallons of water per minute thrown through three streams. There are 100,000 gallons of filtered water used each day in the varied operations, while the consumption of cotton for making antiseptic dressings is one and one-half tons per day. The factories are able to produce 300 gross of plasters daily. To do this immense amount of work the establishment employs 400 persons, male and female.

There are 24 departments in the manufactory as follows: Mill room, plaster finishing, bleachery, cotton lapping, cotton finishing, antiseptic, laboratory, pharmaceutical preparations, court plaster, oil silk, mustard plaster, sulphur fumigator, cutting and Spanish preparation departments.

Besides these departments there are those for making paper and wooden boxes, printing, machine shops, purchasing, receiving, shipping, offices and sales room, making the mechanical resources of the place as complete as the rest of the establishment.

A fact which impressed itself upon the visitors because it was in evidence everywhere in the factories was the cleanliness of every department, whether where the plasters and dressings are being made or in the rooms for mechanical purposes.

Many of the rooms, and notably that where the antiseptic dressings are prepared, are washed down twice a day, and there no foreign matter of any kind is allowed to accumulate or can enter the products of the factory. The tops of the tables in this room are made of glass and the floor is as clean at all times as scrubbing and washing can make it. The young women employed here wear the uniform of the trained nurses of the large hospitals, and all the work is performed in accordance with the best methods suggested by modern surgery.

The thorough manner in which all impurities are removed from the cotton used in the manufacture of the surgeons' antiseptic dressing was fully shown to the visitors.

After the cotton arrives at the factories direct from the southern cotton fields, it is taken from the bales and placed in the beating machine to remove all particles of dirt.

By boiling and the use of chemicals it is thoroughly cleaned and then becomes chemically pure and containing no foreign substances of any kind. One entire building is devoted to the preparation of this cotton for the use of the surgeon and after passing through 40 operations it is as pure and white as new snow. During all of these operations it has been in machines and no hands have touched it, thus another law of modern surgery has been observed. Besides being shown the manner of preparing the cotton the druggists were made conversant with the methods used in making every other article in the factory.

They personally inspected everything and in many instances tested themselves various processes.

When all the buildings and operations had been inspected, the men adjourned to another room, where Mr. Kilmer had a genuine novelty for them. With the use of the stereopticon he showed many slides demonstrating in a practical manner some of those processes for the manufacture of articles that could not have been shown in a day. The exhibition of these chemical changes by the use of the magic lantern was a step forward in science that the druggists highly commended. Pic-

tures of the countries where much of the crude material, such as belladonna, the Kola nut and other drugs is obtained were shown.

The success of this firm and its wonderful development was the theme of the druggists after their inspection of the factory. The men realized that this success was due to the ability of the managers of the corporation, Messrs. R. W., J. W., and E. M. Johnson, their free and judicious use of money and their ability to make a place for themselves.

This has been done by not only improving old lines of goods, but by inventing new ones to meet advanced practice. The firm by putting its products in the market have increased the profits of the wholesale druggists' trade in surgeons' articles over \$100,000 a year, while the retailers make over three-quarters of a million in clear gain. Surgeons and doctors go to the druggist to get now what they were forced to make themselves before Johnson & Johnson appeared. To-day the firm has branch offices in every country in the world.

At the conclusion of the visit to the factory the druggists with their hosts went to the Mansion House where Proprietor Mas served a splendid dinner.—*N. B. Predonian.*

Various Kinds of Vegetable Milk.

Dr. Spruce the renowned South American traveler, mentions a tree, a member of the dogbane family, the juice of which is used as milk. On the bark being wounded the milk flows abundantly and is of the consistency of cow's milk, of the purest white and sweet to the taste. The Indian mode of taking it is to apply the mouth directly to the wound and thus receive the milk as it flows. Dr. Spruce says he has often partaken of it without experiencing any ill effects.

In Guiana the natives employ the milk from a tree belonging to the same family as the last named; in the vernacular it is known as hyahya, and to botanists as *Tabernaemontana utilis* (so named after Jacobus Theodorus Tabernaemontanus, a German physician and botanist). The milk has the same flavor as sweet cow's milk, but is rather sticky, on account of its containing some caoutchouc.

In Para a lofty tree, belonging to the star-apple family, attaining a height of one hundred feet, is used in a similar manner to the others mentioned. Incisions are made in the bark, and the milky juice flows out copiously about the consistency of thick cream, and if it were not for its taste, which is somewhat peculiar, could hardly be distinguished from it.—*Chambers' Journal.*

The best way to thoroughly understand human nature is to know yourself well.

A dead-beat is the man who comes to you for credit when he is "busted," but hunts the town over for bargains when he has cash in his pocket.