

Notes From England.

(From our own Correspondent.)

The mild recrudescence of influenza has once again demonstrated the prominent position which the new synthetic remedies have attained in the treatment of this epidemic. Every chemist has to stock antifebrin, antipyrin, phenacetine, salipyrin, etc., and considerable demands have recently been made upon these antipyretic drugs. The increase in the number of prescriptions containing salicylate of sodium as one of the principal ingredients is also indicative of its value in the rheumatic form of the disease. There has also been some call for compound syrup of the hypophosphites which is evidently relied upon during the stage of convalescence. One feature of the latest visitation of this unwelcome guest is that the majority of those attacked are invariably those who have previously suffered from the complaint. It is still a moot point as to the origin and semenology of "la grippe," and in spite of several announcements of the discovery of a bacillus in the nasal secretions of the inflammatory stage, its dependence upon bacteria for transmission from one person to another is by no means granted by the most eminent medical men.

The recent correspondence between the secretary of state for India and the General Medical Council respecting the inclusion of Indian drugs in the next issue of the British Pharmacopœia is of considerable interest to Canadians. The suggestion that this work should be widened in its scope so as to be more suitable for the needs of the whole empire is not at all novel. Several years ago Professor Attfield, in his capacity as reporter and editor, had advised such a proceeding without, however, submitting a plan by which means it could be satisfactorily carried out. There is very little doubt that hitherto the B.P. has been too conservative in awarding pharmacopœial honors to drugs of local reputation. Even during the last additions to the B.P. something like a score of drugs were recommended by high University authorities, but their claims were dismissed without any explanation or excuse by the committee of the Medical Council who are the final arbiters. The result of such action is ludicrously apparent when during the cholera scare of last year the Royal College of Physicians were invited to supply a few prescriptions for simple remedies which the public might safely employ until a doctor arrived. In those celebrated prescriptions two comparatively unknown drugs occurred. Coto-bark and its preparations are certainly classed amongst the doubtful remedies by 99 out of every 100 medical men. Yet it was the principal ingredient in one of the mixtures. Salicylate of bismuth and cerium is also a very new remedy as even now I have failed to find it quoted in 6 of the leading wholesale druggists' lists. The chief difficulty in obtaining a correct opinion regarding the action of new drugs

lies in the fact that there is no recognised body capable or willing to undertake pharmacological and therapeutical investigations. A start in the right direction was made by the British Medical Association which appointed a committee to report on the respective value and demerits of antipyrine, antifebrin and phenacetine. From a large number of observations the committee report the order of merit in which these three analgesics stand, at all events in regard to their freedom from ill-effects, is 1, phenacetine, 2, antipyrine and 3, antifebrin.

On a previous occasion I reported that a further attempt was to be made by the Pharmaceutical Society to place carbolic acid under the restrictions imposed by the Pharmacy Acts. This attempt will be considerably assisted by the timely issue of a Parliamentary return showing the number of deaths from carbolic acid during the past five years. The total during that time is 375, of which 138 are described as being accidental. The Privy Council, in whose hands rests the decision as to the scheduling of the acid, will doubtless be more influenced by the number of accidental deaths than those of suicides. These sad occurrences would be very largely prevented if the sale were placed exclusively in the hands of chemists, who, for years past, have voluntarily labelled carbolic acid "poison," and usually decline to supply it in customers' own bottles—a very frequent source of subsequent accidents. On former occasions the Privy Council have declined to allow the acid to be scheduled on the ground that it would render a most useful disinfectant not so easily obtainable. At the present time, however, the more recently introduced non-poisonous disinfectants, such as Sanitas, Ozal, Jeyes' fluid, etc., have displaced carbolic acid to some extent and probably to the advantage of the public. There is therefore far less objection now to placing some restraint upon the free sale of an article which has proved so dangerous to the community.

Messrs. Blondeau et Cie, the proprietors of Vinolia Soap and other preparations, have recently introduced some new medicinal soaps which will be of value in the treatment of skin affections. Among these are coal tar, sulphur, terebenc, etc., each of which is combined with the ordinary superfatted cream which forms the basis of Vinolia Soap. There can be very little doubt that the popularity of the Vinolia preparations amongst druggists—as articles which are not permitted to be cut—is leading to extensive business and has entirely replaced Pears' goods amongst chemists' stocks. The elegance which always characterizes Vinolia preparations appeals particularly to the chemists' fair clients who are keen about their toilet accessories.

"Frog in your throat" is the latest visitor to our shores from America, where its sale has been growing largely for some years. In spite of its lengthy title and somewhat uncouth sound, the appearance

of the cough lozenge is very attractive and will "catch on." Messrs. Hanco Bros. & White, of Philadelphia, are well known to your readers for enterprise and go. They are sending a number of toy frogs with which windows may be made conspicuous and which will be sure to attract attention to the lozenges. The retail price, 15 cents, makes the article open to the million, and it will be interesting to follow the success of this remedy in England after its remarkable run in the States.

The use of collapsible tubes as containers for cold cream, pomades, tooth powders, etc., has never been sufficiently taken advantage of by druggists. There is no doubt that they are more attractive and convenient for use than the old-fashioned pot or wide-mouth bottle. By a new process the collapsible tube makers are able to print the labels direct on the metal, thus doing away with labels and labeling. In addition to this they are actually cheaper than pots and bottles, and customers would readily recognize the advantages of preparations put up in these tubes if they were judiciously pushed.

An alloy of Gold and Cadmium has been produced which has the grayish-white color of cadmium.

SITUATIONS WANTED.

SITUATION as Assistant, fourteen months' experience; good references. Address, "McK." Drugs, Warton, Box 100.

WANTED—By a graduate of the O. C. P., a situation as Assistant or Manager. Apply—Druggist, Stayner, Ont.

SITUATION WANTED as Assistant by a young man with two years and four months experience; best of references. Address—W. W. G., Box 97, Brantford, Ont.

BY HONOR GRADUATE O. C. P., four years' experience in city; good dispenser, stock keeper and salesman; best of references; salary moderate. Address—W. R. BOULTER, Hagersville, Ont.

A DRUG CLERK, with over two and a half years' experience (including Junior Term at Pharmacy College) wishes position in drug store, in Manitoba preferred; best of reference. Address—J. H. L., care E. L. Taylor, Treherne, Man.

FOR SALE.

SODA FOUNTAIN.—If you want a New Portable Soda Apparatus at a bargain, address—Box 97, Brantford, Ont.

BARGAIN IN SODA WATER OUTFIT—A Puffer Counter Draught Stand Apparatus, Soda and Mineral Water, marble base, silver-plated arms, surmounted by water jet, glass dome and silver-plated ornament, two Tuff's copper 10 gal. fountains, soda water coolers, mineral water coolers, ice box and syrup bottle holders, syrup bottles, half doz. tumbler holders, Tuff's style M tumblers, tumbler drainer, Whitall, Tatum & Co.'s soda water sign, bar and plates, book of instruction, &c. All complete, boxed and delivered F.O.B. cars. Price \$160. Address, "Apparatus," care Powell & Davis Co., Chatham, Ont.