

Messrs. C. W. McPherson, W. S. McKay, and J. S. Martin took solo parts. The menu card was exceedingly neat and tastefully gotten up, and should prove a fitting souvenir for such an enjoyable event.

Mr. Newton H. Brown occupied the chair, and his committee was as follows: Mr. J. A. Graham, secretary; Mr. W. J. Bauld, treasurer; Messrs. Geo. F. Campbell, E. A. Walters, Frank Ross.

The Opium Trade of Asia Minor.

Opium is perhaps the most interesting, the most valuable, and the most famous product of Asia Minor. This substance, which resembles a resinous gum, is extracted from the capsules of poppy-heads. Incisions are made in the capsules after the fall of the flowers, and the juice which runs from them is then dried and made up into blocks of various sizes. These are covered with leaves and sent in special bales to the market at Smyrna.

The poppy is usually cultivated in the central regions of Asia Minor on firm soil of sandy or chalky clay, richly manured. Several sowings are made throughout the course of the year, but the crops are grouped under two general denominations, the autumn and the spring crops. The autumn sowings are begun towards the end of the month of September, and produce the greater part of the harvest. The seed is sown in fields which have been plowed or dug up, and when the plants have appeared a great many are destroyed in order to assure to each plant a clear space of about 75 centimetres. The earth ought to be stirred and hoed three times over before the time for picking the poppy-heads has come.

After the month of November the snow almost always covers up the young plant, which is thus preserved from frost and the severity of the winter until the snow melts, that is to say, until March. It then grows vigorously until it becomes from 1 to 1½ metres in height. Each plant produces from 5 to 30 globular capsules, which are generally oval in form. The flowers are large, solitary at the top of the ramifications, and composed of four or five petals set in the form of a cross, and crumpled until they expand. They are of all shades from white to red. When the capsule is ripe it takes a pale yellow tint. This is the moment for making the incisions. They are always made at sunset; the juice which oozes from them in the form of tears is collected next morning, at dawn, in shells. It is then dried and moulded into the form of blocks, which are wrapped in leaves of the same plant. From its first appearance until the time of harvest, the plant is exposed to all the intemperance of the weather, excess of rain or drought, of cold or heat, violent winds, etc., and it is thus peculiarly liable to be injured on the nights which precede the incision of the capsule.

*From a report of the French Chamber of Commerce at Smyrna.

The seed is sown two or three times in spring, between the beginning of February and the end of April. This crop requires greater uniformity of weather, especially frequent rains. The consequence is that the spring sowings are more delicate, and their product is sensibly inferior to that of the autumn crop.

The blocks are left to dry, and are then arranged in high baskets containing about 75 kilogs., with certain leaves which have the property of keeping the opium in good condition, and of preventing the blocks from sticking to one another. The bales are then forwarded to Smyrna and Constantinople to be sold there to exporters. Turkish opium has produced during the last fifteen years an average of 6,000 bales. One single year, which was absolutely exceptional, produced 11,000 bales. But this year we have only 3,000, a figure just as abnormal as the preceding.

These are the various varieties of opium and their respective values:

(1) *Malatia, Tokat, Zileh*. Quality extremely fine, and the paste much appreciated by Chinese smokers for its delicate flavor. Amount of morphine very small, varying from 8 to 11 per cent., which is only obtained by means of a special selection.

(2) *Boghadich*. The best quality of Turkish opium, paste delicate and fine, greatly appreciated, especially by the smokers of Central America.

(3) *Yerli*. All opium which is grown in the neighborhood of Smyrna is called Yerli. It is less valued than that of Boghadich, but is as rich in morphine. This is the quality which is used for drugs and in medicine.

(4) *Chaiie*. This kind is so like that of Yerli that it may be included in the same category.

(5) *Salonica*. The cultivation of opium at Salonica is of relatively recent date. It has greatly extended, and produces about 500 bales per annum, half of which, of very fine quality, is more appreciated than even the Boghadich.

(6) *Karatrissar*. This is the district which produces the most opium, and supplies, on a large scale, the trade of England, America, and Holland. The quality of this variety is very good; the morphine varies from 9 to 12 per cent.

(7) *Adeth*. Average quality brought from all parts of the interior. The Turkish word "adeth" means "usual." It represents the ordinary type, which is easily sold for China and America, and the amount of morphine is almost uniformly 9.5 per cent.

(8) *Chinquiti*. This name is given to a quality of opium from various parts of the interior. It is opium mixed with foreign matter; it contains morphine sometimes to the extent of 9 per cent.

(9) *So so*. Under this name are designated those opiums which are bought in the condition in which they arrive from the interior. There is a mixture of five kinds and of Chinquiti. The morphine is from 9 to 11 per cent. It should be

noted that mouldy opiums of bad appearance, which are rejected, are often found figuring afterwards in the category of the "So so's."

These are, approximately, the quantities exported each year:

	Bales.
For England.....	1,000
" North America.....	2,000
" Central and South America.....	600
" Spain and her Colonies.....	500
" Holland.....	500
" France.....	300
" Germany.....	300
" Italy.....	100
" Other countries.....	100

Total, about..... 5 400

or cases representing at the average price of 48 francs the kilogramme, eleven million of francs.

The permanent stock, at the end of the season, which closes on the 15th of June, is valued approximately at 1,000 bales between Smyrna, Constantinople, and the producing districts. The maximum price of opium of late years has been 40 francs the kilogramme, and the minimum price to which it has fallen has been 18 francs; but this fall only occurred once, and lasted but a very short time. In any case we are very far from that period when this article, which used to play a preponderating part in the export trade of Smyrna, sometimes reached very high prices indeed. The price used to go up and down, producing great profits and serious losses. But the speculative spirit which used to mark the opium trade has entirely disappeared, the variations of price are slight, and only follow the normal law of supply and demand, in consequence of the extent of the crops and the requirements of the consumer.—*Board of Trade Journal.—Pharmaceutical Journal and Transactions.*

Sodium Carbonate.

Chemically pure sodium carbonate for analytical purposes is prepared by Reintzer (*Chem. Centralbl.*) by taking 250 cc. of water of 80°C., and dissolving in it as much sodium bicarbonate as it will take up. After filtering and cooling to 10°C. a double salt crystallizes out, to which the formula $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3 + \text{NaHCO}_3 + 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ is assigned. These he separates, washes with a little cold water, and then converts the substance into Na_2CO_3 by heating in a platinum crucible at just below perceptible red heat.

Test for Acetanilid in Phenacetin.

Guasti gives (*L'Orosi*) the following method for detecting acetanilid in phenacetin, when present to the extent of 4 per cent. or more: Boil 0.5 gram of the sample with 10 cc. of water; cool, filter off the deposited phenacetin, concentrate the filtrate, boil with 1 cc. of hydrochloric acid, and treat with phenol and calcium hypochlorite solution. On adding an excess of ammonia, the liquid assumes an indigo blue color if acetanilid is present.