

## Pharmacy in England.

Xylonite in Pharmacy—The Frena Pneumatic Release—Liquid Extract of Malt with Hypophosphites—Hints for Pharmaceutical Analysts—Poison Regulations and Poison Bottles.

(By our London Correspondent)

before the Board of Pharmacy, and the Government insists on the name of the owner or dispenser being registered and being a graduate of the National School of Pharmacy, and if any serious mistake happens through which any injury is done to a customer, the person so registered is, on conviction, committed to jail. There is no alternative.

The stores are fitted very much as in Canada and the United States with the exception that, as a rule, no show cases are used on the counter, the counter itself being generally white marble and extending the full length of the store. They do not make a window display, and the store itself has more the appearance of the old-fashioned apothecary shop. Everything is scrupulously clean and neat. An English-speaking person who is not acquainted with the Spanish language has no difficulty in making his wants known, as every place of business has some one who has at least sufficient knowledge of English to understand and answer questions.

Mr. Laurance thinks there is a capital opening for many lines of Canadian goods in Mexico. He finds that the preference is given to anything English (which also means Canadian) to those coming from the United States.

The city of Mexico, with a population of 350,000, has at least 10,000 English-speaking people, that is, natives of Great Britain and her colonies and the United States, and, no doubt, has a good opening in it for some enterprising young Canadians. There are in that city twelve wholesale drug stores and about 125 prescription drug stores or "boticas," as they are called there.

In Puebla, Monterey, Guadalajara, etc., there are newspapers printed in English, and the most of them dailies.

Mr. Laurance informs us also that the most prominent things to be seen in Mexico are silver dollars and Laurance spectacles.

Phosphot is a condensation product of creosote in phosphorus oxychlorid.

Resting the Eyes.—Straining the eyes by continued sewing, book-keeping, type-setting, and similar occupations, is a cause of considerable mischief, the saving-point of which is frequent and brief rests effected by breaking off the work and gazing about the room. By doing this every quarter of an hour the strain is relieved and the eyes are not troubled.

The use of xylonite or celluloid in pharmacy is extending, and it is almost safe to say that no product of recent invention has been put to such multitudinous uses as xylonite or celluloid. The latest idea is an extension of previous use in capping pots of various shapes and composition with attractive caps of celluloid in various colors, and stamped in gold, silver, or colors with trade marks, or name of the chemist. Some sweet little opal glass jars for tooth paste, rouge, pomatum or the like, are made still more attractive with the pink celluloid caps embellished with the name in aluminum or a device in gold. Spatulas covered with celluloid are most useful at the dispensing counter, where metal in some cases is inadmissible. Antiseptic dressings are put up in celluloid cases, and soap boxes, tooth tablets, and numerous other articles are to be found in outer cases of this same material. Perhaps the most popular form is the imitation ivory tint, which has been so successfully performed that even the grain of ordinary ivory is closely imitated. It may be added that this is the dearest form of celluloid, the clear kind and imitation tortoiseshell being the next most expensive. It is stated that the discovery of nitrating cellulose in the presence of camphor was made purely by accident. The inventor had been experimenting in various directions, and several of his unsuccessful results were placed in a tub of water. On turning this out it was discovered that several pieces of what was previously softened masses of cellulose had toughened so much that they could hardly be cut with a knife. The product, as known to-day, is really a definite chemical compound, and the British Xylonite Company employs hundreds of hands at its factories, and uses weekly several thousand gallons of methylated spirits in which the compound is dissolved.

A pneumatic release is the proper accompaniment now to all the best hand cameras, and Messrs. Beck, the proprietors of the Frena camera, have introduced a neat release that enables the operator to join a group and take himself with the

others. It is about ten feet long, with the usual rubber ball at the end, pressure upon which sets the shutter, which is previously arranged either for time or exposure. They have also some neat devices for vignetting the plates so that artistic pictures with rounded edges or oval shape result. The Frena is a high-class camera that has received unqualified praise from amateurs, and some of the work by quite inexperienced artists is proof of the efficiency of the rapid rectilinear lens and other appointments of the camera. Its only fault is that it is high-priced, but this is unavoidable where the finest workmanship is concerned. Messrs. Beck's name as microscope manufacturers is evidence of the quality of material employed, and it may be mentioned that Mr. Conrad Beck is a member of the Council of the Royal Microscopical Society and a Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society.

A liquid extract of malt has been recommended in these columns before as a convenient substitute for the sticky, cloying, thick extract. Recently the suggestion has been made to add a solution of the hypophosphites of lime and soda to the liquid extract, as a better tonic and nerve food results. This has received high medical praise, and no doubt fills a want. The malt has a specific gravity very little higher than water, and can be put up in white glass narrow-mouthed bottles, with an effective label, and forms a new dietetic preparation of special value.

Cod liver oil is now being put up in white glass oval-shaped bottles of about half pint capacity, and makes an attractive line. Emulsions of cod liver oil with yolk of egg are being displayed in some of the stores, and if the keeping properties are good there can be no doubt that such an emulsion has advantages over the gum emulsions that have a constipating tendency. A new tonic cathartic pill, introduced by a firm of druggists, contains extract of cascara, with minute doses of strychnine and extract of belladonna and a small quantity of aloin. This is an effective pill, and I understand has at