

thing is essential to make it thus valuable and useful, and that is that you, with every pharmacist who receives a copy, should take it up in the spirit in which it was conceived. Fill it up, and more, if possible, with your own personal experiences and ideas, and be convinced that you are one of a large number who are working for the common good, and the advancement of our calling—the science of pharmacy.

Do not cast it aside, but begin at once to jot down such information as it seeks, and continue to do this until any time convenient before the end of June, 1895. Then send it to the undersigned, who will place the information and data which it embodies in the proper columns of his tabulated report, and, when completed, report it to the association, which will, no doubt, so dispose of it that all who have helped to produce it will receive a copy. The undersigned will gladly send a supply of "observation sheets" to all those who desire to join in this grand piece of work, if they will be kind enough to inform him to that effect in writing.

Hoping that you will join us heartily in this good work, and that I will hear from you in due season, I remain, dear sir,

Yours very respectfully,

ALFRED R. L. DOHME,

Chairman Section on Scientific Papers.

303 PRATT ST., BALTIMORE, MD.

Below will be found a transcript of the points in which observations are to be made and jotted down on these "observation sheets":—

THE PRESCRIPTION.—(1) A prescription received calling for therapeutic incompatibles (medicaments opposed to each other in action). (2) A prescription received calling for chemical incompatibles. (A precipitate, *a*; change of color, *b*; effervescence, *c*; caused by chemical action.) (3) Physical incompatibles. (A precipitate due to change in character of solvent, *a*; due to a separation, *b*.) (4) A difficult pill mass. (5) An unsatisfactory ointment. (6) An excessive dose. (7) Dangerous abbreviation. (8) Peculiar composition. Copy of *R* attached. How the trouble was treated, and result.

THE STORE.—(1) New remedies called for and times employed. (2) Obsolete, unmarketable, or peculiar products called for.

THE LABORATORY.—Experienced difficulty in securing satisfactory products in using U.S.P. (*a*), Nat. Form. (*b*), published in (name of drug journal or other work of reference) (*c*), formula for the following:—(1) Fluid extract of..... (2) Tincture of..... (3) Syrup of..... (4) Elixir of..... (5) Plaster of..... (6) Ointment of..... (7) Extract of..... (8) Chemical product. (9) Character of trouble and how remedied. (10) Noticed the following errors in the U. S. P. (*a*), Dispensatory (*b*), description of (name of article or product). (11) Had the following difficulty in applying the U.S. P. test for (name of article or product). (12) Found

the following product had become unsalable from having changed as stated (name article or product). Had been in stock for (time), and was stored (place or situation as concerns temperature, moisture, etc.).

Eau de Cologne Tipplers.

Whether eau de Cologne is, or is not, used to any great extent in this country as a cordial, or as an intoxicant, is probably known only to ladies' maids. If a few thousands of these could be interviewed, some approach to the truth might be made; more probably not. But according to the *St. James' Budget*, which gleans its knowledge from some articles which have been recently published in the *Kölnische Zeitung*, the consumption of the perfume in some foreign countries as a drink is considerable. It is stated that lax Moslems affect to regard it as something which does not rank as wine or spirit. No strict Mohammedan would admit hair-splitting of this kind; but there are Mohammedans who are not strict, and these not only drink it themselves, but allow large quantities of it to be introduced into the harem. This accounts for its enormous consumption in North Africa and Asia. It is said to produce a state of intoxication, more complete than can be caused by an equal quantity of any other spirit, for, besides being strong, it is loaded with various ethers. King Juru, of Rio Nunez, excused himself for stealing and drinking Consul Vohsen's eau de Cologne in 1879 by saying, "He very good for drunk," and the Hottentots to this day declare with regard to it that nothing else makes a man really and truly intoxicated. The writer in the *Cologne Gazette* states that the best Cologne water has the worst taste, and that the cheaper varieties—and there are some very cheap sorts made in Germany for export to the East, etc.—are the least unpleasant to drink. The great Cologne makers, upon being appealed to, have expressed doubts whether their wares can be much used in this way. "Jülich platz, No. 4," writes that the strength of his eau de Cologne, containing 90 per cent. of alcohol, would prevent it from being drunk "neat," and that the admixture of water renders it so milky and oily on the surface that he does not believe it would be palatable to any one. But this manufacturer forgets that people do drink absinthe and mastic, which, mixed with water, develop similar phenomena. As for the little eau de Cologne makers, some of them certainly study to produce potable rather than merely pleasant-smelling distillations, and few of them can be ignorant that their wares are extensively used for drinking.

Dr. Stuhlmann, in his account of Emin Pasha's country, mentions that many a Central African Mohammedan drinks his eau de Cologne and water as regularly as the Englishman drinks his whiskey, and describes as a particularly favorite beverage a mixture of eau de Cologne with

sugar and water. Dr. Baumann, the discoverer of the sources of the Nile, says that the Arabs not only mix eau de Cologne with their drinking water, but also use it in their cooking, and that it is largely drunk by the Soudanese soldiers in the German service. Consul Siemsen, writing from Macassar, tells of a native rajah who greatly appreciated a cocktail composed of eau de Cologne and orange bitters. One of the numerous *Farinas* admits that, to his knowledge, the Indian Mohammedans and their ladies drink enormous quantities of Cologne water, and points out as a significant fact that native dealers, when desirous of forming an opinion of a sample, invariably taste and do not smell. And it is notorious that another Cologne firm some years ago flooded the Bombay market with a professedly potable eau de Cologne flavored with sugar and Kummel. The stuff failed to sell, partly because it was too expensive, but chiefly because, owing to the admixture, it was too weak. The native dealer has no faith in an eau de Cologne a mouthful of which does not cause the taster actual pain. In Paraguay it is loved by the women. In the Moluccas it will purchase almost anything, though it does not seem to be established that the women there drink it. It is only certain that their favorite drinking vessel is an eau de Cologne bottle. In the Kilima-Njaro district of Africa both the king, Mandara, and his prime minister, Mar eale, drink it habitually. Count Joachim Pfeil noticed the prevalence of the habit in Griqualand East as early as the seventies; and in Southwest Africa, at this day, cheap sorts of eau de Cologne are drunk by the natives in preference to all else. In Zanzibar native doctors prescribe eau de Cologne as a medicine, and have thus introduced it as a dissipation. It is now taxed there as spirits, and its sale is proportionately restricted; but it used, until recently, to enter duty free, and was actually cheaper than gin or brandy. It is drank in Greenland.—*Chemist and Druggist*.

A New Saccharine Patent.

A new method of preparing saccharine has just been patented by the Basler Chemische Fabrick. The process consists in the transformation of thiosalicylic acid into thiosalicylic chloride, and this into the corresponding acid amide. This latter body is then oxidized by means of potassium permanganate, or other oxidizing agents. The details are as follows: 21 kilos of PCl_5 and 15.3 kilos of thiosalicylic acid are mixed quite dry. The resulting body is a fluid, and HCl is given off. After getting rid of the HCl and POCl_3 , the thiosalicylic chloride is crystallized and suspended in water, heated, and treated with potassium permanganate. The saccharine is separated with great ease.—(*Moniteur Scientifique*)—*British and Colonial Druggist*.