

nal paper.—Apoth. Ztg. XXVI (1911), No. 34, 332-333.

Extracts of Belladonna and Hyoscyamus.—Superiority of the Alcoholic Extract from the Dried Drugs.—The new German Pharmacopœia (V) having, in conformity with the "Protocol" adopted by the International Pharmaceutical Congress at Brussels, dismissed the extracts of belladonna and hyoscyamus prepared from the fresh plants and replaced them with extracts prepared from the dried leaves of the plants, by percolation with 70% alcohol, P. W. Danckworth has made a series of experiments in order to ascertain the relative value of the two methods of preparation, as well as the advantage, if any, of using only the leaves instead of the whole herbaceous portion. Extracts were accordingly prepared from fresh herb and leaves by the process of the G. P. IV, and from the dried herb and leaves by process of percolation directed in the "Brussels Protocol," the material being of the identical harvest, and the resulting extracts adjusted so as to retain 15% of water. Referring to the original paper for the details of these experiments, the result in the case of *Belladonna* may be condensed as follows:

1. The leaves contain less alkaloid than the entire herb.
2. By percolation of the dried drug with

70% alcohol the yield of extract is not only larger, but the alkaloidal content is also greater than in the extract made from the fresh drug.

3. The extract obtained by percolation from the dried herb contains more alkaloid than that obtained from the dried leaves, but the yield of extract from the leaves is greater.

4. The international requirement that the extract shall retain only 10% of water should be changed to 15%.

It is of practical interest that the yields of extract, containing 15% of water, when calculated for the fresh herb and leaves respectively, was as follows:

Herb: Fresh, 1.88% (=1.699% alkaloid); dried, 3.97% (=1.917% alkaloid).

Leaves: Fresh, 2.02 (=1.207% alkaloid); dried, 5.38% (=1.282% alkaloid).

The actual yield from the dried material was: From herb, 31.30%; from leaves, 29.88%. If the chlorophyll is filtered out after distilling the alcohol from the percolate, these quantities are reduced to 26.6% and 25.55% respectively, the percentage of alkaloid being correspondingly increased.

Similar results were obtained with *Hyoscyamus* leaves and herb, but these were confined to a single specimen each of the herb and dried leaves.—Arch. d. Pharm. 249 (1911), No. 4, 247-253.

ENTHUSIASM.

Enthusiasm is that life spark that comes into vital contact with the hearts of men and which influences them in a way that promotes the greatest activity and devotion to a cause.

Cold, perfunctory work, no matter how intrinsically valuable, fails to obtain the psychological results that are so important in carrying any movement or project through to success, especially if either are dependent for success upon the united action and support of any considerable body of men.

In N. A. R. D. work enthusiasm has been the cement that has bound leader to leader and worker to worker and has imbued the N. A. R. D. gospel with the fervor of trade and professional philosophy and religion, making it a cause worth planning for, fighting for and sacrificing for.

When we look around us we find that successful business establishments are alive with enthusiasm and are working to achieve certain business ideals. Principle is the foundation of their enthusiasm and activity.—*N. A. R. D. Notes.*