

Two reprints have been received of articles that appeared in the *Apotheker-Zeitung*—by DR. C. HAHMANN, of the Institute of Applied Botany at Hamburg—one, dealing with Condurango bark and the other on accidental and intentional substitution of herbs, leaf and flower drugs; the number considered represents a long list, among them belladonna, stramonium, hyosciamus, senna, etc.

Bibliography of the publications from the laboratories and clinics of the Peking Union Medical College and Hospital for the period from July 1, 1926 to June 30, 1927. We find in the list some familiar names—K. K. Chen, Bernard F. Read, C. T. Feng, John Cameron, all of whom are occasional contributors to the JOURNAL OF THE A. PH. A. The listing is both in Chinese characters and English titles.

ABSTRACTS OF SCIENTIFIC PAPERS.

COD-LIVER OIL FLAVORING.

Flavoring Medicinals. B. H. SMITH—*Drug Markets*, 23 (1928), 117. Through *Squibb's Abstract Bulletin*. Ways and means of offsetting or making unpleasant taste, bitterness, saltiness or astringency are enumerated. Licorice, sugar and saccharin are most often used in bitter medicinals; for quinine, yerba santa, also sarsaparilla and the "bright" flavors such as tincture of cardamon and the compound spirit of orange are of value. With salines, lemon is particularly useful with Epsom salts; others of value are vanillin, essence of almond, fruits of pineapple, etc. Sugar or glycerin and spicy flavors can be used to advantage for astringents; cinnamon and blends of cinnamon, clove and pimento are recommended for flavoring. To mask the flavor of cod-liver oil, blends of the essential oils are used. Cinnamon and wintergreen or cinnamon with other oils such as clove, mace cardamon, fennel have been suggested. Coriander is especially valuable as a blender with other oils. Cocoa and chocolate have proven very effective in disguising cod-liver oil preparations. For toothpastes with a soapy base a blend of strong flavors is required such as menthol, peppermint, spearmint and anise. In masking the taste of medicinal preparations it is well to remember that certain flavors have precisely the opposite effect, the author notes; as, for example, oil of celery emphasizes the fishy flavor of cod-liver oil. Medicine taken in tablets and aromatic

tablets is made more pleasant by spraying the essential oils on the tablets which contain enough starch so that the oil is readily absorbed. An agreeable taste depends upon the use of substances that change the viscosity of the product, as glycerin. The same result, e. g., the delay in the intimate contact with the organs of taste and the less easy spread of the preparation, is obtained by emulsification, for which purpose gum tragacanth or gum acacia, or preferably a mixture of the two is used.—J. P.

ACTIVE PRINCIPLE OF LIVER.

The Liver-Substance against Pernicious Anemia. K. FELIX—Aerztlicher Verein München. meeting (July 7, 1928); through *Munch. med. Wochschr.*, 75 (1928), 1573; through *Squibb's Abstract Bulletin*. The active substance of liver can be isolated to a certain extent, when the water-soluble extracts are separated into various fractions by a procedure worked out in fermentative hydrolysis of proteins. When the histidine fraction here considered is again precipitated under different conditions, a series of inactive accompanying substances can be removed. 50—80 mg. of the preparation thus obtained is as active as 200 Gm. of liver. It gives no biuret reaction and contains no simple peptides. Its N-content is 12%. The diazo reaction is the only strong albumen color reaction. A discussion followed at the meeting regarding the various hypotheses of its function in pernicious anemia.—E. G.

CABINET OFFICERS GIVEN RIGHT OF DISMISSAL IN ERGOT SUIT BROUGHT BY IMPORTER.

Justice Jennings Bailey of the District of Columbia Supreme Court, on November 7th, granted a motion of Andrew W. Mellon, Secretary of the Treasury, and William M. Jardine, Secretary of Agriculture, to dismiss a suit for injunction brought against them by Howard W. Ambruster, a New York importer, alleging that the officials were permitting the importation of adulterated and misbranded ergot to the detriment of his business. "To grant the relief sought," said Justice Bailey, "would be to interfere with the discretionary powers of the cabinet officers and would be to substitute the judgment of the court for that vested by law in those officials."