

then the mode of application in the various disorders. A few of the claims follow:

- "... generally proper for the healing of all wounds."  
 "... works by transpiration. . . ."  
 "It extracts all the wounds of foreign bodies. . . ordinarily in less than twenty-four hours, and without pain."  
 "... to heal all the ills which frequently come to the breasts of women. . . ."  
 "It cures all sorts of fevers. . . ."  
 "It brings happy accouchements to women in child labor."  
 "It returns the menses. . . ."  
 "It extracts the humour of the gout."  
 "... the lives of many persons have been saved by this ointment."

In 1766, the *Ecclesiastic Journal* announced the distributors of the product for the benefit of the people of the provinces. The price was raised in 1768, due to the great demand.

The ointment was supposedly made of burgundy pitch, lard, yellow wax, naval pitch, rosin and powdered frankincense.

*The Capuchins*.—Numerous Capuchin groups prepared remedies.

Father Hilarion had a prescription "to dissipate the stone," made with white wine and celandine. He was also known for his diuretic infusion. Brother Joachim, of Paris, had a laxative syrup containing oil of tartar, spirit of vitriol, and polychresticum.

At Alençon, the Capuchins rendered great service in the epidemic of 1638. They had an "apothecary-Brother," who was a great botanist, and who painted some six hundred plants or flowers in natural colors. His studies were facilitated by a large monastery garden.

At Faubourg St. Jacques lived the famous Brother Ange, who distributed among other things "an opiate" and a "syrup mésenterique et épatique." His opiate cordial was made with preserved apricots, poppy flowers, sal ammoniac, sugar, etc. The product was used to purify the blood, for queasy stomach, etc. The ingredients were sometimes varied. Ange also distributed a cream for redness of the face (made with farina and distilled vinegar), a laxative "vegetable water" and an antimony preparation.

His reputation was great, and his income proportionate. Even the Dauphin brought him to court, but found no relief in his remedies.

Perhaps the most famous of the Capuchins were those at the Louvre. They will be discussed separately.

#### REFERENCES

- (1) Tournier, J., "Le Clergé et la Pharmacie," Paris, Librairie Caffin (1938).
- (2) ———, *J. pharm. chim.*, 28 (1938), 191.

## Book Reviews

*The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics*, by LOUIS GOODMAN, M.D., Assistant Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Yale University School of Medicine, and ALFRED GILMAN, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Yale University School of Medicine. 1383 pages, illustrated. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1941. Price \$12.50.

This book, which is intended to serve both the medical student and the practitioner, presents a new approach to the study of pharmacology, one which aims at a correlation of basic physiological principles with pharmacodynamics and of pathological physiology of disease with the actions and uses of drugs. The scope of the text is sufficiently wide to serve the student throughout the medical course and subject matter is of such a nature that it should be of value to the practicing physician in refreshing his fundamental knowledge of pharmacology and in keeping abreast of the latest advances.

The subject matter is grouped into twenty-six sections covering all drugs of recognized value, including those recently introduced, as well as the latest information concerning the actions and uses of older drugs of established prescription writing. There are twenty-six illustrations, sixty-seven tables and rather extensive bibliographies at the end of each chapter. The volume is thoroughly indexed with entries for both drugs and diseases. Because of its scope and the arrangement of material, the book should be of value not only to the student and practitioner of medicine but also to the pharmacist, particularly as a reference work.—A. G. D.

*University of California, Hospital Formulary*, prepared by a Committee of the University of California, Medical Center Staff. v + 270 pages. University of California Press, Berkeley, California. Price \$2.00.

This little volume is a handbook of helpful information, particularly with reference to drugs and chemicals and is intended primarily for the use of the staff and student body of the University of California Medical Center. Among the more important subjects with which it deals are prescription writing, vehicles and coloring agents, buffered and isotonic solutions, some of the commonly used trade-marked preparations, drugs for diagnostic purposes, endocrine preparations, vaccines, serums and antitoxins, the vitamins, parenteral fluids, therapeutic index and procedures for pediatrics, dental formulary drug list, x-ray examinations, laboratory and clinical procedures, treatment of burns and treatment of acute poisoning. The book is printed on thin paper, is of a size convenient to carry in the pocket and contains such a wide variety of information of use to the physician and clinical laboratory worker that it should be widely used.—A. G. D.