

that the cargo might be shipped first to a neutral port and transferred by several different vessels. Apparently England and France have the right to declare anything contraband that they may wish, but they are probably restrained because of the danger of inciting hostile feeling in this country.

The following prices have been taken from "The Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter" of New York. We give the prices of the articles mentioned before the war, on September 1st and on December 1st. This table shows some of the variations of prices:—

	Before War.	September 1st.	December 1st.
Atropine Sulphate	\$ 8.00 oz.	\$35.00 oz.	\$18.00 oz.
Salicylic Acid .....	.25 lb.	1.15 lb.	.70 lb.
Adeps Lanæ, Hydrous.....	.17 lb.	.80 lb.	.22 lb.
Tartaric Acid.....	.30 lb.	.75 lb.	.42 lb.
Citric Acid.....	.55 lb.	1.25 lb.	.60 lb.
Salts of Tartar.....	.08½ lb.	.25 lb.	
Potash Permanganate.....	.10 lb.	.75 lb.	.14 lb.
Quinine .....	.26 oz.	.31 oz.	.26 oz.
Cod Liver Oil.....	19.00 bbl.	29.00 bbl.	20.00 bbl.
Benzoic Acid.....	.26 lb.	2.00 lb.	.40 lb.
Quicksilver .....	.54 lb.	1.10 lb.	.75 lb.
Juniper Berries.....	.03½ lb.	.22 lb.	.04½ lb.
Camphor, Japanese.....	.42 lb.	.95 lb.	.44 lb.
Hyoscine Hydrobromide.....	21.00 oz.	120.00 oz.	43.00 oz.
Canary Seed.....	.06 lb.	.14 lb.	.07 lb.
Celery Seed.....	.20 lb.	.40 lb.	.16 lb.
Japan Wax.....	.10½ lb.	.22 lb.	.10½ lb.
Belladonna Leaves.....	.60 lb.	2.25 lb.	1.10 lb.
Dandelion Root.....	.15 lb.	.70 lb.	.25 lb.
Cumarin	3.10 lb.	12.00 lb.	3.25 lb.
Hydrochinone .....	.51 lb.	8.00 lb.	1.50 lb.
Potash Bromide, Gran.....	.37 lb.	.74 lb.	.74 lb.
Carbolic Acid.....	.08½ lb.	.70 lb.	.55 lb.
Caustic Potash.....	.05 lb.	.32 lb.	.08 lb.
Potash Prussiate, yellow.....	.13 lb.	.30 lb.	
Homatropine Hydrobromide.....	42.00 oz.	135.00 oz.	85.00 oz.
Phenolphthalein	1.05 lb.	2.00 lb.	1.25 lb.
Sodium Cacodylate.....	3.50 lb.	18.00 lb.	6.00 lb.
Thymol	1.80 lb.	12.00 lb.	5.50 lb.

REVIEW OF CURRENT PHARMACEUTICAL LITERATURE.*

FREEMAN P. STROUP, PH. M.

The abstracts herewith given are from the November numbers of several publications and are few in number, for, much to the writer's surprise, he found very few original articles of much real interest to the average pharmacist, that might be considered as being at all scientific. There were many articles on commercial topics and of academic interest, and many of the journals had reprints

* Read at the December meeting of the Philadelphia Branch.

of excellent papers, and a considerable number contained a large number of abstracts from excellent articles, some from foreign and others from domestic journals.

MERCK'S REPORT.

Objectional Labeling for Medicinal Preparations:—The U. S. Department of Agriculture, through the Bureau of Chemistry, has issued a number of suggestions to makers and proprietors of medicinal preparations to be followed by them in avoiding conflict with the provisions of the amended Food and Drugs Act, and has given examples of the kind of advertising that would bring them into danger of prosecution as violators of the law. Some of the suggestions follow:—

"A preparation cannot be properly designated as a specific, cure or remedy, or recommended as infallible, sure, certain reliable or invaluable, or bear other promises of benefit unless the product can, as a matter of fact, be depended upon to produce the results claimed for it."

"Not only are direct statements and representations of a misleading character objectionable, but any suggestion, hint or insinuation, direct or indirect, or design or device that may tend to convey a misleading impression should be avoided."

"Representations that are unwarranted on account of indefiniteness of a general sweeping character should be avoided."

"Testimonials, aside from the personal aspect given them by their letter form, hold out a general representation to the public for which the party doing the labelling is held to be responsible. The fact that a testimonial is genuine and honestly represents the opinion of the person writing it does not justify its use if it creates a misleading impression with regard to the results which the medicine will produce. No statement relative to the therapeutic effects of medicinal products should be made in the form of a 'testimonial' which should be regarded as unwarranted if made as a direct statement of the manufacturer."

"Statements on the labels of drugs guaranteeing them to cure certain diseases or money refunded may be so worded as to be false or fraudulent and to constitute misbranding. Misrepresentations of this kind are not justified by the fact that the purchase price of the article is actually refunded as promised."—*November, 1914, p. 283.*

JOURNAL OF AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

Ventilation Theories Exploded:—The November 7th number of the above-named journal contains a symposium of papers on the subject of ventilation of hospitals, public halls and other places where numbers of people are brought together that proves about as surprising to many individuals as did Dr. Hatcher's paper on digitalis, reported for this meeting in October by Prof. LaWall, and for much the same reasons, namely, that they show the incorrectness of many of the ideas long held with reference to the subject. Very careful investigation has demonstrated that:—

1. The amount of oxygen, which in pure air amounts to 21%, may be reduced to 17% before the air becomes really harmful to breathe, yet rarely does it get lower than 20% in so-called poorly ventilated rooms.

2. Carbon dioxide in amount exceeding .04% has often been stated as being dangerous, but exhaustive experiments have shown that the amount may run over 1% without proving harmful, yet rarely does it exceed 0.4%, even in crowded rooms.

3. Odors do not necessarily indicate a poisonous condition of the air, and it is becoming generally well recognized that bacteria floating in the air are relatively unimportant as a source of disease, or at least of danger.

4. The depressing effects produced on individuals by the air of crowded or poorly ventilated rooms is due primarily to too high a temperature, to excessive humidity and to a lack of air circulation. Air low in oxygen content and high in carbon dioxide content, but kept in motion, is far less depressing than pure air not in motion.

Frederic Bass says that ventilation systems should aim to secure proper temperature, humidity regulation, keep air in motion and properly distributed, and prevent offensive odors from circulating.

The original articles and an editorial on the subject are well worth reading.

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHARMACY.

Germination of Belladonna Seed:—A. F. Sievers of the Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, reports the results of a series of experiments.

"The subjection of belladonna seed to freezing temperature accelerates their germination. Hence it is of benefit to sow the seeds in the fall."

"There seems to be no relationship between the size of the seed and its germinating power."

"The heavy seeds are by far the best."

"Color seems to be no criterion of the value of the seed as regards germinating power."

"Treatment of the seed with various strengths of sulphuric acid from one to sixty minutes did not appear to be of any great value."

"Treating the seeds with hydrogen peroxide was found to be of very material benefit."

"Scratching the seed coats, while of some benefit, was not nearly as beneficial as the peroxide treatment."—*November, 1914, p. 483.*

JOURNAL OF INDUSTRIAL AND ENGINEERING CHEMISTRY.

Determination of Camphor and Certain Essential Oils when in Solution in Alcohol:—W. B. D. Penniman and W. W. Randal describe a rapid method. A definite volume of the solution is put into a Babcock bottle with a solution of calcium chloride and the mixture whirled; a definite volume of gasoline is added and the contents of the bottle again whirled; calcium chloride solution is added to bring dividing line to zero mark on neck of bottle, and a calculation is made from the volume of gasoline solution. Gasoline boiling between 40° and 60° C. is used. Good results were obtained from alcoholic solutions of camphor, oils of peppermint, lemon, orange, anise, nutmeg, cloves and wintergreen.—*November, 1914, p. 926.*

NORTH DAKOTA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION BULLETIN.

Examinations of a Number of Samples of Spirit of Camphor:—About 125 samples were obtained from various sources, examined and the results tabulated for easy reference.

When the spirit is made by the U. S. P. process it contains 86% alcohol and 10% camphor. Of the lot examined one had only 53% alcohol, the others ranged between 71% and 93%, most of them running about 90%. One ran as high as 18.6% camphor, the others ranged between 6.8% and 12.7%, most of them ranging between 8.7% and 10.3%.—*November Special Bulletin, No. 12.*

THE DRUGGIST'S CIRCULAR.

The War Stamp Tax is thus commented upon:—"It is plain if the manufacturer does not pay the tax it will fall upon the retailer and it therefore behooves the latter to act accordingly."

Another editorial makes plea for support of the Stevens bill.

"*An Improved Method of Testing Urine for Acetone,*" by F. E. Niece, a valuable paper, and "*Big Things in Pharmacy,*" a paper of much interest treating of the scientific progress of our calling, are two good articles in this issue.

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHARMACY.

"*Belladonna and Hyoscyamus*" is the title of a paper by E. L. Newcomb, which is begun in this issue.

"*Commercial Papain*" is the subject of an interesting paper by F. N. Heyl, C. R. Caryl and J. F. Staley.

"*Pure Drugs and the Public Health,*" by M. I. Wilbert, Ph. D., is the title of an interesting paper.

CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST.

"*A New Beta-naphthol Reaction*" is described as follows:—A few drops of concentrated sulphuric acid are added to 1 cc. of diluted beta-naphthol solution, and to this is added 0.03 cc. of a 0.01 per cent. solution of sodium nitrite, when the above coloration is obtained. The reaction is sensitive in a solution containing 0.0002 per cent. of beta-naphthol. The coloration is supposedly due to a quinonoid derivative of beta-naphthol.

JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

An editorial comments on a recent bulletin of the Bureau of Chemistry which speaks of the importance of determining exactly the activity of digestive enzymes and ferments.

THE BULLETIN OF PHARMACY.

"*Should the Salesman in Front or the Prescription Clerk in the Rear Receive the Higher Salary?*" is an interesting symposium upon this question.

THE AMBULANCE CONSTRUCTION COMMISSION.

This is the first great war in which field motor-ambulances have been extensively used. It was inevitable that many defects should be found in existing types, and in various quarters experts began to ask whether something could not be done to standardize the patterns and to improve the type. At the instance of Mr. Henry S. Wellcome the founder of the Wellcome Bureau of Scientific Research, a Commission has been formed, and the names of members show at once that the matter is regarded as of first importance by those most intimately connected with the welfare of the wounded soldier.

Sir Frederick Treves, whose long experience and distinguished service specially fit him for the task, has consented to be the Chairman. The Admiralty is represented by the Director-General of the Medical Department, R. N., while the Quarter-Master-General to the Forces and the Acting Director-General, Army Medical Service, represent the War Office. The British Red Cross Society is, of course, represented by Sir Frederick Treves, and the St. John Ambulance Association by Sir Claude Macdonald and Sir John Furley. The remaining members are all experts. This Commission will first and foremost act as a judging committee for the award of prizes of the value of £2000 provided by the Wellcome Bureau of Scientific Research. These prizes are offered for the best designs of an ambulance-body which shall fit a standard pattern motor-chassis for field motor-ambulances. The last day for the receipt of competing designs is June 30, 1915. It is hoped that the competition will bring in a number of ingenious designs, from which the ideal field ambulance-body will be evolved.

It may be asked why the competition is restricted to designs for a body and not for the complete ambulance, including a chassis. The reason is that a chassis takes much longer to build than a body, and that, when war breaks out, it is impossible to get at short notice anything like a sufficient number of any one type of chassis. On the other hand, a standardized body to fit any chassis of approved dimensions can be constructed in numbers at comparatively short notice. And a perfected body is badly wanted to ensure complete comfort for the wounded.

It is hoped that the information obtained by the competition, and in other ways, will be published in some permanent form, available for future reference. Probably in addition to one design of special excellence, there will be submitted various ingenious suggestions which may be incorporated in the pattern design approved by the Commission. For these, a portion of the prize-money has been set apart. The first prize is of one thousand pounds, the second of five hundred, and the third of three hundred pounds. All details of conditions may be obtained from the Secretary, the Ambulance Construction Commission, 10 Henrietta Street, Cavendish Square, London, W. The competition is open to citizens of all nations.