

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDITING RULES.

Your committee begs leave to make a *pro forma* report of progress and to request that the committee be discharged. It seems to be impossible to devise general rules of editing which will be accepted throughout pharmacy save as to nomenclature, and in this direction the decisions of the committee on revisions furnish a guide not only for the nomenclature of pharmacopœial preparations, but also as a guide for other names by analogy. Respectfully,

CASWELL A. MAYO, Chairman.

ANTISEPTICS IN WAR.

Wounds should receive efficient disinfectant treatment as soon as possible after their infliction, and they should not be treated only by the application of an antiseptic dressing. The double cyanide of zinc and mercury in powder form is useless on the field, where wind and rain prevent it from reaching the wounds. When made into a paste, however, with 1 in 20 carbolic acid (presumably in water) it has been used with complete success. The wounds, says the author, healed beneath a mixture of paste and blood clots, and were beautiful to see. The dye with which the powder is stained acts as a mordant, and by it the chemicals are more firmly fixed in the tissues. This paste can be kept in collapsible tubes without deterioration; in fact, some which has been kept in this way since the South African War remains of the same consistence to-day, while the metal of the tubes has not been affected by the contained chemical. Regret is expressed at the fact that our troops are being supplied with iodine solution as a disinfectant. Many wounds, says the author, has arrived in this country in a disgraceful condition after the early application of iodine, and he thinks that the substance has proved a failure in treating large wounds. A better solution than iodine is a mixture of 1 in 20 carbolic acid and 1 in 500 mercury perchloride in absolute alcohol, colored with rosoline. The carbolic acid is a solvent of fat as well as a germicide; mercuric chloride is a most powerful germicide, while the rosoline, acting as a mordant, fixes the mercuric chloride for weeks after application of the solution. The alcohol encourages penetration of the antiseptic, and does not macerate the tissues like water. The liquid has been applied frequently and freely to large granulating wounds without ill effects. This would be better for the soldier to carry than iodine. It is absolutely non-irritating, and can be safely applied to the scrotum, eyelid, and other parts liable to show the results of irritants. Hydrogen peroxide as a constant application to wounds is objected to on the ground that the granulation tissue under its influence becomes anæmic and swollen, though it may have its uses in removing blood clot and sloughs.—G. L. Cheade, C.V.O., C.B., F.R.C. S. (*Brit. Med. Journ.*, December 12, 1914, 1,006).