

information on the organic drugs of ninth revision of the U. S. P., the same facts concerning the third revision of the National Formulary and the more commonly used unofficial drugs. Included in this vest pocket compendium are a conspectus of plant families, a glossary of botanical and therapeutical terms used and an index of botanical synonyms.

Still another feature of this handy reference booklet is a table of poisons and antidotes, rules for comparing Fahrenheit and Centigrade scales, phrases and abbreviations used in prescription writing, Latin genitive case endings, symbols and signs used in prescriptions, the Metric system of weights and measures and a table of equivalents.

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### FIND ADULTERATED DRUGS.

#### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE INVITES CRITICISM OF PROPOSED RULINGS.

The officials in charge of the enforcement of the Federal Food and Drugs Act have found certain impurities in pennyroyal leaves. In order that the trade may know what the United States Department of Agriculture regards as adulterants of this product it is proposed that a service and regulatory announcement be issued outlining the opinion of the department. Before issuing the announcement, the department desires to obtain the views of the trade or other interested parties as to the fairness of the ruling. Communications should be addressed promptly to the Bureau of Chemistry, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. All criticisms will receive careful consideration. The proposed announcement follows:

"INFERIOR PENNYROYAL LEAVES.—Examination of samples of pennyroyal leaves, *Hedeoma pulegioides* (Linne) Persoon, has disclosed that in a large number of instances, the product has been very carelessly collected and frequently contained very large amounts of sand, stems and other foreign material. From the data at hand, the bureau is of the opinion that properly collected pennyroyal leaves should contain not more than 10 percent of stems, not more than 16 percent of total ash and not more than 6 percent of acid-insoluble ash (sand), and will consider as adulterated, under the Food and Drugs Act, any material which does not comply with these figures. Further investigation may reveal the necessity of establishing a more rigid requirement, in which case due notice will be given."

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### PULVIS UNNA.

Dr. H. V. Army states (*C. U. C. P. Alumni Journal*) that by this title, the prescriber undoubtedly means *pulvis fluens hydrargyri*, a powdered form of mercury, made by rubbing mercury with talcum powder and a little oil of turpentine. In another recipe a 30 per cent powder is directed to be made by triturating thirty grams of mercury with five grams of oil of turpentine and fifteen grams of lycopodium until it is extinguished, after which it is diluted with fifty-five grams of powdered wheat starch. For further details, see Year Book of the American Pharmaceutical Association, 1915, page 210; 1916, page 281.