

submitted been very poor. In 1910 only two samples assayed above 4.5% of podophyllin, and in 1911 only one. Samples with 3.5, 3 and 2.75% of resin were not infrequent.

Nux Vomica. About 30% of the samples submitted had to be rejected as assaying below the required amount of strychnine. During the current year all the samples came up fully to the official requirements.

Opium. The variation in strength of this drug was very slight only. We were always able to purchase opium with about 11% of crystallized morphine. In 1906 and 1911 samples were encountered which were below U. S. P. strength, assaying only 8.4% and 7.3% respectively. The latter lot consisted of hard, black balls with a polished surface, such as were reported quite recently by Carles (Journ. de pharm. et chim., 1911, page 343). On the other hand, samples with 14% morphine were not infrequent.

Scopola Root. The percentage of samples assaying below 0.5% of total mydriatic alkaloids amounted to: 1906 none, 1907 50%, 1908 64%, 1909 73%, 1910 40%. It is hardly conceivable that the percentage of proper strength drugs should have dropped so much on account of atmospheric conditions, etc. The poorer quality may be due to the presence of scopola japonica in the shipments of scopola atropoides, the former assaying as is well known about 0.3% of total mydriatic alkaloids. It seems a pity to drop this drug from the Pharmacopoeia, simply because the physician and the public do not know its name, and that hence there is no demand for it, and it cannot legitimately be substituted for belladonna. In our judgment, it should be given as an alternative in the Pharmacopoeia for belladonna, so that it can legally and legitimately be used for belladonna. Its effect and its constituents are practically identical with belladonna. As it is now, plaster manufacturers must use the higher priced belladonna at the public's expense, while the much cheaper scopola is relegated to the scrap heap.

Stramonium Seed. Very little variation was noticed in the alkaloidal percentage of this drug.

Stramonium Leaves. There was no reason for reducing the standard from 0.35% to 0.25%, since shipments with more than 0.35% are easily available. Only very few samples with less than 0.3% were met with. The quality of the drug was almost alike during the six years.

In concluding, we cannot refrain from an expression of high appreciation of the good effect the Pure Food law has had on the quality of crude drugs; spurious and almost worthless specimens being now very rarely met with on the market.

THE RELATIONS OF SUCCESS AND DUTY.

"The workman who drops his tools at the stroke of twelve, as suddenly as if he had been struck by lightning may be doing his duty—but he is doing nothing more. No man has made a great success of his life or a fit preparation for immortality by doing merely his duty. He must do that—and more. If he puts love into his work, the 'more' will be easy."—*William George Jordan.*