

as a preventative against nervous afflictions of the face, particularly neuralgia.

It is quite natural that the various countries prefer to employ those vegetable drugs which they can grow themselves and that they use foreign drugs only when nothing equally good is available among their own. The pharmacopœias of the different countries evidently have the same point of view. It is to be assumed that many of the native Mexican drugs shown here have no superiority over similar drugs of other countries, but just as well it may be that some do have decided advantages over those used at present or possibly the one or the other may not be represented at all by any other doing the same work. The Yohimbi bark, for example, was first introduced in Europe in the year 1896, but was long known and used by the natives of Africa.

In order to arrive at the truth one should also consider the opinions obtained through traditions.

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FATAL POISONING CASES IN HENNEPIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA, DURING 1923 AND 1924.*

BY F. J. WULLING.¹

I can never get away from the almost overwhelming feeling of responsibility of the calling of pharmacy. When we handle poisons, we are always faced with the possibility of mistake and the dire consequences that may follow. When we look into the public records, we find a corroboration of the need of extreme care in the handling of drugs and poisons.

I am not as successful as I want to be with the students in imbuing them with the great responsibility of the calling. We, and other colleges, teach them every possible method of preventing error; yet errors are occurring—some of them fatal.

The Commonwealth Fund of New York is conducting a study of pharmacy, "in order to find out what is necessary for the pharmacist to know." I am quoting those words. For many years pharmacists have endeavored to enlist the Carnegie Foundation in a survey of the schools of pharmacy and the practice of pharmacy, very much as it did with reference to medicine by virtue of which an increase in medical standards followed. The Carnegie Foundation felt it could not conduct such a survey at the present time. So the Commonwealth Fund of New York finally thought it would be a proper function for it to enter upon a study of the practice of pharmacy to enable the schools and the practitioners to revise, possibly, their educational and practical methods.

So Professor Charters of the University of Pittsburgh was enlisted to direct the study. The Foundation will spend, I understand, about \$25,000 on the study. A hundred thousand prescriptions are being studied to enable pharmaceutical educators and practitioners to come to some conclusion as to the amount and nature of study that should be required of prospective pharmacists.

* Read at the joint meeting of the Northwestern Branch, A. Ph. A., and the Scientific and Practical Pharmacy Section of Minnesota State Pharmaceutical Association, February 11, 1925.

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I have helped in the matter somewhat. Professor Bachman has helped. He has secured typical prescriptions from many parts of the State of Minnesota. The part I took included a calling of attention to the responsibility of the practice of pharmacy and suggested some study be made as to this question of responsibility. Whether as a result of my suggestion I do not know, but the study was made to include a chapter on fatal poisoning cases that are continually happening everywhere. I made an investigation in this state, but the figures I give you below cover only Hennepin County, in which Minneapolis is located. The figures cover the years 1923 and 1924. Dr. Seashore, the Coroner of Hennepin County, was good enough to give them to me.

TOTAL CASES OF POISONING FOR 1923 AND 1924 UP TO DECEMBER 15, 1924, REPORTED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CORONER OF HENNEPIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA.

Name of poison.	Accidental.		Suicidal. Homicidal.		
	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.	1924.
Alcohol.....	21	17			
Carbolic acid.....			8	3	
Lye.....			1		
Lysol.....			3	2	1
Veronal.....	2	1			
Sulphuric acid.....			1		
Cyanide.....	2	1	2		
Hydrocyanic acid.....	1				
Strychnine sulphate.....			1		
Blaud's pills.....	1				
Barium sulphide.....	1				
Turpentine.....	1				
Paregoric.....		1			
Luminol.....		1			
Arsenic (rat cracker).....		1			
Bichloride of mercury.....				1	
Chloroform with some other soluble poison.....				1	
Phosphorus from "sons of gun" fire cracker.....		1			
Mushrooms.....		1			
Unknown poison.....				1	
Mixture of gasoline and carbolic acid.....		1			
Totals.....	29	25	16	3	1

SALICYLATE OF METHYL IN 1875.

The *Chemist and Druggist* reprints a report of an evening meeting from the *C. & D.* of February 15, 1875, when the "International Pharmacopœia" was discussed. Also "Mr. Williams read a paper on 'Salicylate of Methyl.' Prof. Kolbe has, as is well known, recently discovered a method of producing salicylic acid artificially. The oil of wintergreen consists almost entirely of salicylate of methyl. Mr. Williams has combined the artificial salicylic acid produced by the destructive distillation of wood with the artificial methyl produced from the destructive distillation of coal and has ob-

tained a substance quite identical in flavor with the oil of wintergreen. This is a very remarkable step in the artificial 'building up' of Nature's products and points to the early realization of the chemists' dream of constructing such bodies as quinine, morphia, and strychnia."

It seems that the "ine" ending was not applied to distinguish alkaloids, while quinine is given in that way the other two alkaloids mentioned have the "in" ending.

Methanol is a recent product of chemical synthesis and, it is said, its production is possible at a price below that of the so-called "natural."