

morally, to supply a product from *cannabis indica*, except from the Bombay variety, without so specifying on the label.

Ergot. Ergot has ruled very high in price for some time past, owing to the short crop. We have been successful each year in obtaining a reasonable supply for our own manufacturing of the new crop of Spanish ergot, which has been proven by physiological test to be of excellent quality. The early part of the present spring, however, we had occasion to buy a few thousand pounds of Russian ergot. We obtained a well-known brand, thinking that in this way we would secure better quality. The physiological examination, however, showed that this ergot was inert. The writer has been informed that while Russian ergot is smaller than Spanish ergot, there is no intrinsic reason why Russian ergot should not be as active as the Spanish drug, and we cannot explain why these various lots proved to be inert.

Guarana. Guarana is a product of Brazil and is largely used in that country in the form of tea. Years ago, this article has sold as low as 20c to 30c per lb. In recent years, it has averaged a price of from \$1.25 up. The new crop is generally offered about June. Up to this time, the offerings have been very small and the lowest reliable quotation that we have heard was \$3.00 per lb. Unless conditions change, very high prices will prevail.

Barbadoes Aloes. There are many who argue that true Barbadoes aloes is not obtainable, but they are mistaken. There is a moderate quantity imported into this country regularly every year.

SMITH, KLINE & FRENCH Co., June 2, 1913.

CHINESE PHARMACY.

J. F. RUPERT, HOSPITAL STEWARD, U. S. NAVY, ANNAPOLIS, MD.

There may be said to be two classes of drug stores in China, the strictly native shop, and the other invaded by the ideas of foreigners. Indeed, this division marks boundaries in all conditions in China. The strictly native shop would never be suspected of being a drug store by any one not acquainted with such places. However, after a short residence in China, to the interested, it becomes an easy matter to pick out the drug vendors as one passes in a rickshaw.

The native shops sell no liquids. No bottles are in evidence. No sign of the existence of foreigners is visible any place about the premises. Nicely lithographed cans are arranged neatly on the shelves with Chinese labels. Very many drugs are kept in wooden drawers, arranged exactly like the herb drawers of their more enlightened brethren in the States. Powders are kept in cans and jars. Chemicals do not enter very largely into their stock, which consists for the most part of vegetable and animal drugs. Their "back rooms" are well stocked with herbs in bundles, and flowers and seeds in bags.

In China all strictly native business houses open on the street without windows or doors. At night the entire front is closed with boards. This is also the prac-

tice during stormy weather. Curtains of reeds or grass give shade from the fierce sun. The Chinese have many native practitioners, whose business is a mixture of quackery, conjury and empirical experience. Most of the people, especially the poor, essay to cure their own ills, assisted by the advice of friends and the aid of the drug dealer, who is shrewd enough to miss no opportunity to sell a few coppers' worth of some of his cures.

The drug men are very adept in putting up packages. These packages are not secured with a cord unless quite large, when the package will be carried by the cord ends which are left long for this purpose. The small packages are made by placing the article to be wrapped in the center of small square pieces of paper, kept ready for this work, the lower corner is first folded over, then the side corners, and lastly the top corner is folded down and tucked in, making a very neat and secure package.

Their drugs are mostly of an aromatic and demulcent nature, and while they thoroughly understand the practical use of many vegetable drugs, others are used in ignorance and superstition. Active drugs containing powerful principles are not much used, as they are fearful of their effects. Poppy seed, ginger, anise, fennel, orange and lemon peel, marshmallow, elm bark, cinnamon, cloves and other spices, are common drugs to be recognized. Ginseng root is, of course, the standard Chinese remedy, and, because of its price, is used mainly in the treatment of disease in its last stages. The consumptive, about to cash in, will be allowed the great luxury of ginseng if the price is available. Great attention is given to the cultivation of this drug and a product of greatly varying value is found upon the market. I am told the very best comes from Korea, that is, they consider that this is the best.

The Chinese names for drugs vary in the different provinces and have no relation to English equivalent names. This fact makes it hard for Chinese qualified physicians to use native herbs and, of course, the natives usually cannot furnish drugs asked for by foreign educated doctors, for the reason that they have been taught a manufactured vocabulary for names for drugs and medical terms for which the Chinese contains no equivalents.

Chinese pharmacy has its zoological side also. The number of insects and reptiles that can be produced from among the array of cans, jars and drawers is certainly wonderful. Dried toads, snakes, locusts, beetles, centipedes, flies and bugs of all descriptions can be had.

These are often smoked, usually dried, but some have the appearance of having been put up in grease or syrup. These animal products are more expensive than the vegetable drugs, and in their use I would judge that superstition plays a greater part than in the use of the more common medicines.

Pills are in evidence in large quantities and have a ready sale.

The scales used are an unequal-arm, single-beam, hand affair, with sliding weight. These are carried about the place as is most convenient in weighing. The Chinese unit of weight is slightly heavier than our pound—four of their units equal five of our pounds.

As to the prices charged, I can give little information, as they will charge a foreigner all they can, and it is only after having gained their confidence that they will allow one to examine their stocks or give any information. I would

judge that they do a considerable business, as the Chinese like to take medicine, and the shops constantly have customers about. Some have large buildings and large rooms and employ as many as 10 to 15 or more assistants. China is full of disease, and the habit of living in crowded little hovels, with ventilation most carefully guarded against, and a constitutional dread of water, unites to incubate and spread disease wholesale.

In China a great amount of business is done in coppers and cash. A copper is about the size of our half-dollars and is worth less than 1-3 cent gold. A cash is worth about 1-30th of a cent gold. Cash are used by the very poor and will buy comparatively as much as a cent in the States. Coppers are universally trusted as their size and actual value in copper prevents counterfeiting.

The native drug seller has some dignity about him and greatly resents foreigners trying to satisfy their curiosity by prying into his business.

A Chinese pharmacist would pass a poor examination in chemistry, but could show us clubs and spades about vegetable drugs. He must be able to identify all his herbs; must know their uses and properties; must know what time of the year to collect them, and how to cure and preserve his stock, and must understand their cultivation and the different species. The farmers and native collectors raise and gather the plants and they are for the most part ready for sale when put upon the market. The roots are all sliced and have the appearance of having been cut when green and fresh.

The other class of stores, very likely, will have glass windows and a door and glass show cases. These stores are often owned and conducted by educated Chinese physicians, who do a good business, really converting the place into a dispensary, where the people may come, relate their symptoms and receive treatment. These stores, of course, have stocks of foreign appliances and chemicals, and in many respects have the appearance of some of our stores at home. In fact, in Shanghai and other large cities, some Chinese stores employ a number of foreign pharmacists and are really up-to-date, first-class pharmacies.

It is surprising how many Chinese can speak English, even in the heart of the native cities, where foreigners rarely enter, and then only with a guide. Education is honeycombing Chinese superstition and ignorance, and 50 years more will see China a modern country for the greater part.

A number of patent medicine firms from the States, and especially a Japanese company, are flooding China with patents. Many patent medicines bearing not a word of English are seen upon the shelves, while their advertisements are seen in the papers and upon walls and most any place where they will be noticed. Some of them even have advertisements on the front of street cars passing through the Chinese districts in the large cities. In fact, the Chinese are an ideal people to whom to sell drugs.

A medicine well colored and pleasantly flavored is really relished and finds a most ready sale. The consumptive, of whom China has thousands, will buy a bottle of some quack medicine and shut himself up in some hovel and we can hardly wonder that he soon succumbs. Just now, while the Chinese government is doing its utmost to suppress the use of opium, many unscrupulous are pushing opium cures, both liquid and pills, which contain morphine, and are doing a thriving business. The Chinese themselves attempt this patent medicine stuff,

but the greater part of the nefarious business must be laid at the feet of foreigners, mostly Japanese, and some Americans.

In these stores we find soaps, perfumes, some stationery, combs, brushes, cigarette cases, patent medicines, cuttlery, leather goods, and, in fact, a little of everything.

In some stores, not strictly first class, are to be seen powdered drugs and pills in almost any kind of container imaginable. Liquid shoe polish bottles, cigarette tins, beer bottles, whiskey bottles with screw tops, patent medicine bottles, pickle bottles are all pressed into service. Perhaps they place some confidence in the lithographed label.

Many of these drug stores also attempt a little in the line of dentistry. This consists mostly of extractions with modern forceps, silver fillings and gold crown. With the least instruction from some one who has a reputation as a dentist, some of the natives develop into really clever workmen. China has a number of men who are graduates in dentistry from schools in the States and Europe and these do a large business and also conduct schools, often going to neighboring towns for the purpose. The course of instruction is rather short, but the students seem to absorb a great amount of practical knowledge during this time, and are able to do a great amount of good among their country-men who happen to have the necessary cash.

Gold is considered a poison of especial potency. It is often resorted to with suicidal intent, probably because they know its deathly properties are more in reputation than in reality.

Phenol and other caustics are taken by some who really mean business in the serious matter of giving up the ghost. Nitric acid also seems to be favored in this regard.

There are a number of Chinese works on *Materia Medica*. The old writers did considerable work in this line, but many of their works have been lost or cannot now be read.

Ointments are very popular with the Chinese. Pills and tablets are frequent. Blisters and poultices are well understood. A colorless and tasteless preparation is despised and held in contempt. Decoctions and infusions, however, constitute the backbone of Chinese medicine.

COOPERATION, THE LIFE OF TRADES AND PROFESSIONS.*

E. G. EBERLY.

Unquestionably, to come as far as I have in response to your kind invitation, would indicate that I was competent to deliver a message, or at least speak to you interestingly. The topic which has been chosen presents another proposition that would here call for excuses on my part were I given to such methods for getting myself out of trouble, but my way of doing under such circumstances is

* An address delivered to the Nebraska Pharmaceutical Association, June, 1913.