

Excipients may, for convenience, be divided as follows: Liquids, adhesives, bases, disintegrators, absorbents, lubricants, and fillers.

#### LIQUIDS.

The liquids used consist essentially of water, ethyl and methyl alcohol, as well as mixtures of benzine and either of the alcohols. Their purpose is to facilitate granulation and to dissolve a small portion of the adhesive, thus increasing the adhesion or cohesion of the particles.

#### ADHESIVES.

These consist of cane sugar, milk sugar, acacia, tragacanth, glucose, gelatine, Irish moss, and dextrin. Cane and milk sugars are the most valuable and most commonly used. When they are properly employed no additional adhesive is necessary in many cases. Cane sugar is preferred by some on account of its greater solubility, while others prefer milk sugar because it makes a more porous and absorbent tablet. Cane sugar is used in the form of both powder and syrup. Acacia is employed in powder and mucilage form. The latter is more effective than the powder subsequently moistened. This adhesive must not be too freely used on account of its tendency to produce "insoluble tablets," or those which disintegrate with difficulty in the system. Tragacanth is seldom used except in cases where it is difficult or impossible to prepare sufficiently firm granulations by other means. Glucose, gelatine, dextrin, and flour are used only for certain mixtures. Gelatine in tablets is liable to become moldy, thus rendering the tablets unfit for use. Some, however, say that this criticism is unwarranted.

(To be continued.)

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#### THE NEW AGE.

This is an age of social service. Never in all history has the world been so concerned in the welfare of "the other half"; never has there been such a strict inquiry into the life conditions of all peoples; and never has there been such concerted action to relieve suffering and social wrongs, as we see manifested so generally to-day. Surely the "millennium" is at hand. Well may we say with Riley:

"This world is a curious compound, with its honey and its gall,  
With its tears and bitter crosses, but 'tis a good world after all.  
And a good God must have made it—leastwise that is what I say,  
When a hand is on your shoulder in a friendly sort o' way."

Everywhere the hand of social service is being laid upon the shoulder of the poor and unfortunate, the oppressed and the needy "in a friendly sort o' way." It is a great work and is enlisting the co-operation of all classes of people. The layman in his sphere, and the members of all professions are working side by side—each in his sphere—to bring about proper life conditions for all.—*Russell W. Bunting, D. D. S., in Lehn & Fink's Dentist's Diary.*