

TEDIOUS METHODS OF TESTING DRUGS AND THE RESULTS

Many Animals Sacrificed for Good of the Cause; Drugs Taken From Animals; Vast Profit on Medicines.

By Frederic J. Haskin. Washington, March 21.—Lively interest is being shown in the forthcoming decennial revision of the United States Pharmacopoeia. The doctors, the druggists, the pharmaceutical associations, the government—in short every one of the many interests that bear a close relation to drugs from the time they are in their raw state until they pass down the throat of the patient—are all taking much interest in the revision. Even congress has had the matter brought before it through a bill which proposes that the Pharmacopoeia shall be made a property of the government, to be revised under its control. It is said that the drug manufacturers are in favor of such a law, but that all other interests are heartily against it.

The ninth decennial convention for revising the Pharmacopoeia will in a manner legislate for congress, since that body has said in the pure food law that the United States Pharmacopoeia and the United States Dispensatory shall be the official standard of preparations under the pure food law. And here an interesting point has been raised. One state has held in its highest courts that the official drug book at the time of the enactment of the law remains the official book. On the other hand another state has held through its courts that the book in force at the hour of interpretation is to govern. So far as is known the federal courts have not passed upon the subject, but most authorities are acting on the principle that the time of interpretation and not the time of enactment will serve to fix the standard.

40,000 Pharmacists. There are about 40,000 pharmacists in the United States, and they prepare about 1,000,000 prescriptions every day in the year. The ordinary range of prescription writing takes in several thousand drugs and proprietary combinations. The highest number of substances resorted to in the important drug store is about 10,000, though there are 50,000 drugs and compounds known to the pharmaceutical world. In a record of the preparation of 27,000 prescriptions it was found that 1777 different drugs were used, and that the average number in each prescription was 2.5. Opinions vary widely as to how many drugs a physician really needs to prescribe. Dr. Osler once said that nuxvomica and hope were the only two really essential things, but of course he was using a hyperbole to drive home an argument against the excessive list of medical preparations. Some physicians think that 100 drugs are sufficient to quell the whole gamut of human ills, while others complain that the Pharmacopoeia is not comprehensive enough when it contains only 1000 official preparations.

Seeking New Medicines. The preparation of drugs constitutes one of the most interesting things in all human activity. The minute care

that is required in the preparation of the heroic remedies grips the attention of the layman as firmly as the wonders of astronomy or geology. Drug manufacturers ransack the whole world for new ideas in healing materials. Medical science owes its use of strychnin, one of the most valuable of the heroic drugs, to the study of a poisonous arrow from Africa. In the preparation of this drug its strength must frequently be tested, and in this test a live frog is used. The standard is the amount it requires to kill a frog weighing a certain number of ounces. The hundred thousandth part of a grain will determine the issue between life and death for the frog.

Testing Drugs. Ergot is nothing more than a fungus growing on rye, and is gathered throughout the rye fields of Europe. The only known way to satisfactorily test the strength of ergot is to paint a rooster's comb with it. If it makes a certain shade of black the preparation is of the required strength. Every manufacturer of ergot has a coop full of roosters to aid him in his tests of strength. In the case of digitalis it is literally "tested on the dog." A dog is anesthetized and given a dose of the medicine. His heart is then cut out and placed in a trough. If the expansion of the heart properly, the drug is known to have the proper strength. Androsalin comes from the suprarenal gland of animals, a little gland attached to the kidney. It is one of the most powerful of drugs, one millionth of a grain for every two pounds of body weight having a vast effect on the human system. Pepsin, which is the prepared beings of pig stomachs, will digest from three to four thousand times its own weight in hardened steel. In one factory there is half an acre of glass in the drying closets that is covered over with pepsin all the time.

Man's Likeness to Monkey. If Darwin had lived to the present day he would have had much stronger proof of his theory of the close relationship between man and monkey. He would have gathered it, not from the anthropologist, but from a test in the chemical laboratory that has been devised to detect the presence of human blood. Quantities of human blood are injected into the blood vessels of a rabbit at intervals for several days. This makes the little animal feverish and restless. After a certain time has elapsed the "humanized" blood of the rabbit is taken, and it will produce certain well recognized effects when injected into any blood other than that of a human being or a monkey.

In dogs, cats, guinea pigs, horses and all other animals, except men and monkeys, this reaction will take place. With monkey blood it behaves exactly as with human blood. In tests to discover the presence of human blood, the merest trace of it will stand revealed and positively identified.

Cornering Drug Market. One would suppose that the drug market would be immune from the attacks of the man who seeks to "corner" something, but as a matter of fact nowhere else is the opportunity so great and so much improved. Where it may take \$10,000,000 to corner the wheat market, a few hundred thousand dollars will effectively corner the market on a given drug. Then the operator is ready to name his price, and often he sells at an advance of from 100 to 300 per cent. As the prescription charges of the average druggist remain the same year in and year out, the advance comes out of his pocket.

Just now there is a war on between the doctors and a certain association of druggists. About 12,000 druggists have formed a syndicate for the compounding and sale of a line of preparations made from the best prescriptions that have come to them in the course of business. They advertise widely, declaring that it is foolish to pay a doctor's fee and a prescription fee when just as good a remedy may be had for less than the prescription would cost. Of course the doctors do not like this, and in some

DOUBLE WRECK IN EASTERN OREGON

Engineer Risk and Fireman Hopple Killed; Freak of the Block Signal System.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Pendleton, Or., March 21.—Two men killed, two engines demolished and seven freight cars piled in a tangled mass, are results of a double wreck eight miles east of this city on the O. R. & N. at 7:45 yesterday morning. Engineer L. Risk and Fireman Hopple, both of La Grande, who were running an engine and tender down grade east of Canyon, were killed. The disaster was caused, presumably, by the reckless speed at which the engine was rounding a nine degree curve, throwing it against a steep embankment with such force as completely to demolish it. Engineer Risk was flung by one arm and literally scalded to death, while Fireman Hopple was buried under tons of coal, from which his body was removed only after several hours' work. Both were unrecognizable. Twenty minutes later extra freight No. 285 westbound bore down upon the scene. As the wrecked engine and tender were clear of the rails the block signal registered a clear track, and the train crew were unaware of danger ahead until almost upon the wreck. Engineer Walter Robinson, Brakeman W. L. Rose and Fireman C. L. Wilson jumped as the nose of their engine struck the wreckage. All three escaped uninjured. Their engine, followed by seven freight cars loaded with steel rails, coal and cement, plunged into the Matilla river. A wrecking crew was sent out at once. The dead men were brought to this city by Coroner Polson.

clites have boycotted the druggists who carry these goods. In many cases it has sufficed to bring the druggists to terms. **Vast Profit in Medicines.** That there is a vast profit in proprietary remedies is shown by the census figures. In a certain year it was found that the wholesale value of patent medicines was \$75,000,000 and that the cost of the materials entering into their manufacture was \$21,000,000—a gross profit of nearly 300 per cent. The retail price was more than double this amount. One of the strangest anomalies of the scientific world is the fact that while every physician who prescribes must be licensed after a rigorous examination, and every druggist who fills the prescription must undergo a like examination, any man, without let or hindrance other than the limitations of his own means and ability, may go into the business of making and selling proprietary remedies and manufacturing drugs. He has the life and death of thousands of people in his hands, as improperly standardized drugs may result in the death of all who use them. In some cases, as in the antiseptic formulas, the federal government has taken jurisdiction over the preparation, but in the great majority of cases the people have little to protect them except the reputation of the manufacturer.

Drugs From Animals. In the matter of biological preparations the homeopathic pharmacopoeia makes use of a wide range of sources than the allopathic school. In the former one finds ambergris, taken from the intestines of the sperm whale, fresh fox liver, fox gall, dried fox lungs, crushed honey bees, bee sting poison, fresh cockroaches, spider webs and even bedbugs. No data is at hand as to the manner of collecting the latter or the prices paid.

Some Statistics. It is said that there are more than 3,000,000 people seriously ill in the United States every day of the year. One visit out of every three a doctor makes results in the giving of a prescription. It is stated that not one physician in five possesses a copy of the United States Pharmacopoeia although every prescription that is issued is supposed to be based on it. Most doctors possess dose books which give them the data without reference to the pharmacopoeia. Several new medical preparations are being placed on the market every day. One big drug manufacturing concern spends a quarter million dollars a year on its laboratory. Here trained scientists are trying to evolve new things for the good of humanity. One man has spent years in trying to make a perfect germicide. Another spends years in experiments with pneumonia germs. While physicians have made many of the valuable discoveries in the realm of medicine, the majority of these have recently come from the laboratories of drug manufacturers.

Tomorrow—Preventing Accidents. **RHODES SCHOLAR WINS 120 YARD HURDLES** London, March 19.—V. McDonald, formerly of Cambridge, Mass., and now a Rhodes scholar at Oxford, won the 120 yard hurdles at the annual intervarsity meet of Oxford and Cambridge on the Queen's club grounds Saturday. His time was 14 seconds. Five American Rhodes scholars were among the entries for the meet. These included L. C. Hull, formerly of University of Michigan, and now president of the Oxford University Athletic club, who won the 500 yards and 100 yards run in the games last year. E. C. Putnam, formerly of the University of Kansas, and R. E. Blake, formerly of the Vanderbilt university, Nashville, Tenn., are Oxford entries in the weights.

CORONER'S JURY GOES TO WELLINGTON TODAY (United Press Leased Wire.) Seattle, Wash., March 21.—The coroner's jury investigating the Wellington train accident left for Wellington this morning, headed by Coroner J. C. Snyder, to complete the taking of evidence. The jury will leave Wellington on the return at 2:30 tonight and will probably reach its verdict before arriving in Seattle. Strange cases of mistaken identity continue to crop out in the Inquest. E. W. Holes of Mayberry, Ont., twice reported dead in the wreck, appeared before the jury Saturday to testify. He had walked to Seattle the day before the slide. Joseph Bentler, a timber cruiser, walked into the morgue yesterday and looked at a corpse tagged "Joseph Bentler, No. 83." "Some mistake," said Mr. Bentler. "I missed the train."

JOHN D. III HAS 4TH BIRTHDAY

Favorite Grandson of Oil King Will Have Prospective Fortune Diminished.

New York, March 21.—If John D. Rockefeller carries out his intention to give away the bulk of his enormous fortune by establishing a gigantic foundation for philanthropic purposes, his grandson, John D. Rockefeller III, who completes his fourth year today, will lose the distinction of being the richest baby in the world, or, expressing it more correctly, of being the baby with the prospect of inheriting the largest fortune in the world. It is true that even if the Rockefeller foundation becomes a fact the favorite grandson and namesake of the oil king will inherit enough to keep the wolf from his door for the rest of his life, but his inheritance will not be as great as that of several other grandsons, whose grandfathers have accumulated and are still accumulating gigantic fortunes in oil, steel or railroads. However, the possibilities of the future do not work for John D. Rockefeller III at present. He was a remarkably large and healthy baby when he was born, on March 21, 1906, and under the strict hygienic regime enforced by his father has grown into a fine and healthy youngster, vigorous and full of life. Unconscious of being the prospective heir of untold millions, and equally unconscious of the probability of having his share of the inheritance materially diminished, he celebrated his birthday today with all the zest which a boy of his age, be he millionaire or pauper, can put into such a celebration. **Favorite Grandson.** John D. Rockefeller has many other grandchildren, but John D. III has always been his favorite, and it has always been understood that the bulk of his fortune would some day descend upon the eldest son of the oil king's only son. It has always been a subject of interest to some persons with a mathematical turn of mind to figure out how large would be the fortune which John D. III would some day inherit. Nobody, perhaps not even Mr. Rockefeller himself, knows the amount of his present wealth more than approximately. It has been variously estimated at from \$200,000,000 to \$1,000,000,000, and some men well acquainted with the affairs of the oil king have expressed the opinion that even the larger amount is a conservative estimate. Accepting \$1,000,000,000 as the basis of their calculations, mathematicians have figured out that this amount at simple interest of 3 per cent would have grown to \$2,500,000,000 in 45 years. But of course the establishment of the Rockefeller foundation would alter the situation. The wealth would probably increase at a moderate rate, in spite of the benefactions distributed by the foundation, as only the interest of the endowment would be used, but the bulk of that tremendous fortune would not be in the hands of John D. Rockefeller III, although undoubtedly he would succeed his father in the control of the fund.

RATE WAR ON ALASKAN STEAMSHIPS TO END (United Press Leased Wire.) Seattle, Wash., March 21.—The end of the passenger rate war on Alaskan steamship lines is in sight. It is generally conceded on the waterfront today that rates will be back at the old basis by April 15, following the announcement of the Pacific Coast Steamship company yesterday that the old rates would be restored April 1. This action is the result of an expected heavy traffic to Alaska points out of Seattle this summer. Booking for berths and business already blocked out in the hands of the expectation of an unusual traffic.

Chinese Sailor to Prison. (United Press Leased Wire.) Prince Rupert, B. C., March 21.—Ah Wey, a Chinese sailor on the ship Cape Breton, is on his way to the New Westminister penitentiary, with an officer, to serve a three years' term, while a

\$500 head tax, paid by the captain of the ship, is in the local government treasury. Ah Wey, together with other Chinese sailors, started a small mutiny on the ship, in which the right hand of a fireman was almost severed with an axe. Judge Young sentenced Ah Wey to three years and let his countrymen go free. As Constable Leek took his prisoner

from the ship, Collector MacDonald of the Canadian customs service demanded the \$500 head tax. Captain Warden refused to pay, and Ottawa was appealed to by wire. The department there sustained the local collector, and Captain Warden was compelled to pay the \$500 before his ship was granted clearance papers. Journal Want Ads bring results.

To Try Out Submarines. Boston, March 21.—Seven new submarines, the Tarpon, Stingray, Graying, Salmon, Bonita, Narwhal and Snapper, known officially as the third submarine flotilla, left Charleston navy yard today for Newport, under escort of the cruiser Castine. During April and May the submarines will be tried out in Narragansett bay preparatory to the joining of the Atlantic fleet for the summer drills.

NEW DEPARTMENT



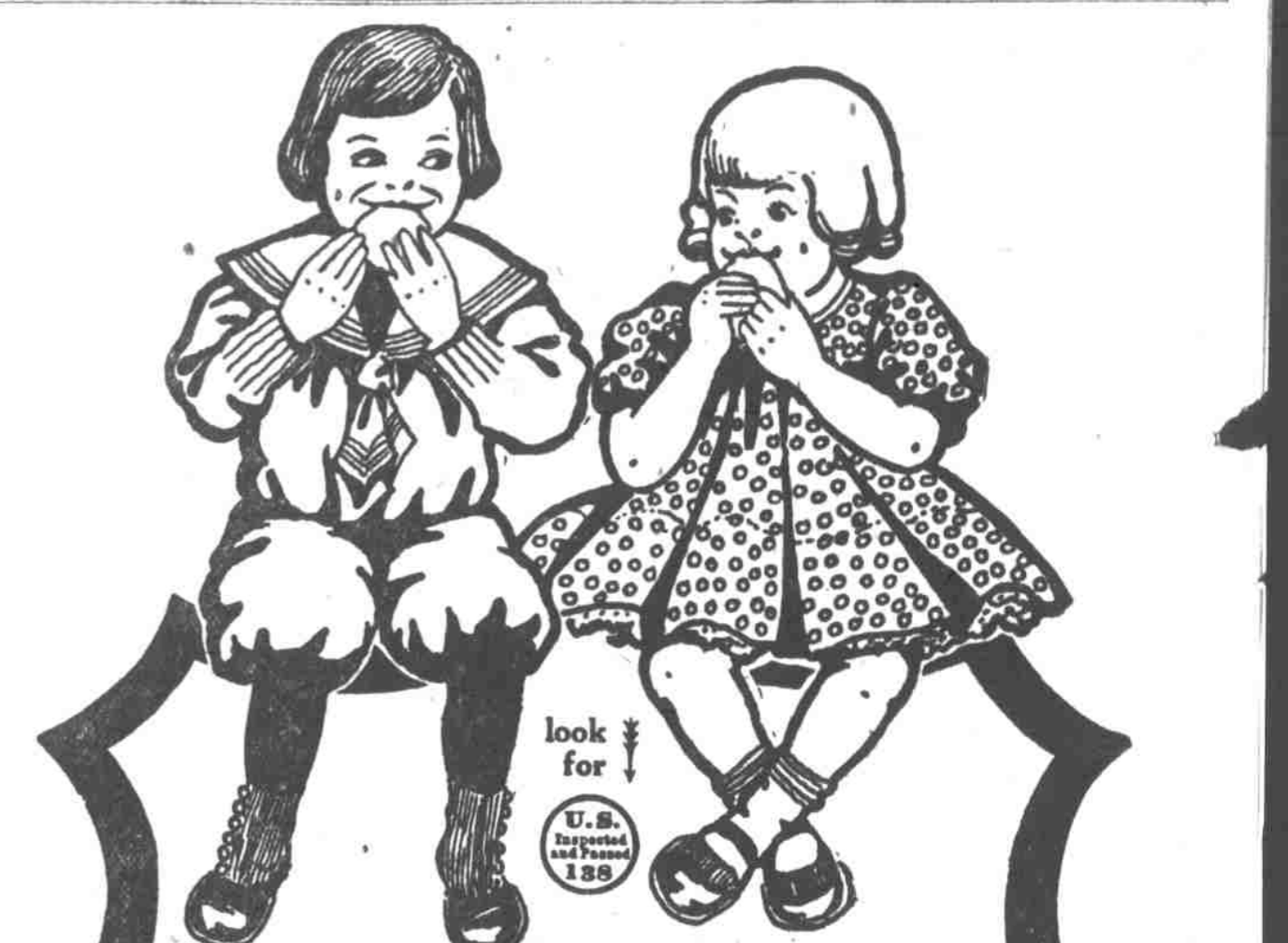
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