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Botanical Medicine Monographs and Sundry

NOTES AND NEWS.

**Turpentine Vapor.**—A fire was occasioned on the premises of a dealer in chemicals (*Chem. and Drug.*, 1898, p. 622) through an assistant going down the cellar with a naked light, which came into contact with the vapor of turpentine stored there. In a few minutes the whole house was in flames. Damage estimated at 25,000 *l.* resulted.

**Preventive of Rust on Metal Work.**—Lard 125 parts, camphor 20 parts are melted together and a little graphite added. The objects are dressed with this paste, which is removed after twenty-four hours.—*Chem. News*, 1898, 183

**Students' Insurance.**—The University of Heidelberg has announced (*West. Drug.*) an innovation in the shape of accident insurance providing for all students attending its physical and chemical laboratories. While the University pays the premium, a small extra charge is exacted from each student.

**Sadtler's Reducing Agent.**—A slightly acid bath of hydrogen peroxide is used as a reducing agent for chrome tanned skins.—*Leather Manufact.*, 1898, p. 101.

**Sterilized Water.**—Bizzozero maintains that the taste frequently complained of in boiled water is really caused by the kettle and can scarcely be due to the absence of CO<sub>2</sub> or dissolved air, of which water from wells of great depth often contains very little.—*Pharm. Jour.*, 1898, 118; from *Practitioner*, LXI, 63.

**Black Wax.**—E. H. Blitz has examined a sample of black wax, from the West Indies, and finds that the coloration is due to the pollen grains contained in the wax.—*Pharm. Zeit.*, 1898, 404.

**Mushrooms as Food.**—The report of the U. S. Department of Agriculture (*Farmer's Bulletin*, No. 79) compares the composition of mushrooms with that of other articles of food, and shows that edible fungi do not possess a high food value.

**Essence of Mandarins.**—J. Flatan and H. Labbé (*Bull. Soc. Chem. de Paris*) have found 98 per cent. of limonene in this essence, identical with that found in the essence of Portugal; a trace of citral, and about 1 per cent. of the same ether insoluble in alcohol were also present.—*Ibid.*, p. 160.

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**The Drug Market.**—Geo. L. Muth, Chairman of the Committee on Drug Market of National Wholesale Druggists' Association, reported, among other things, that the importation of certain drugs has been very heavy. Quinine and its salts, 4,372,477 ounces, against 2,696,492 ounces previous year. Balsam copaiba increased 64,000

pounds in imports, while opium imports for fiscal year 1896 to 1897, 1,072,914 pounds, same 1897 to 1898, only 123,845 pounds, a big decrease, 949,069 pounds. The supply of many indigenous drugs was heavy, owing to big prices; others, where prices have been so very small, are not coming to market.

**Acid, Boracic.**—A slight advance during the year. There is very little news in regard to the California product, which promised so well a few years ago.

**Acid, Tartaric.**—This is usually a very fluctuating article in the drug trade; but, for past year, has been very steady.

**Alcohol, Grain.**—Again in the combine of the great Whisky Trust, and, of course, higher prices.

**Alcohol, Wood.**—Declined only for a short time. Sales are pretty large, it being freely used in the arts.

**Arrow Root, Bermuda.**—The true article quoted 42 to 45 cents in kegs; it is getting very scarce; the regular stock Bermuda, 25 to 30 cents in kegs. St. Vincent's, owing to tariff, is selling 7 to 9 cents, and American, 5 1/2 to 7 cents..

**Balsam, Copaiba.**—As usual, this drug moves in many ways, having a big advance at the outbreak of our war with Spain. The imports from June, 1897, to June 30, 1898, were 196,571 pounds, an increase of 64,000 pounds over previous year.

**Balsam, Canada Fir.**—A slight advance only during the year.

**Balsam, Peru.**—Much more fluctuating than usual.

**Balsam, Tolu.**—Low price now ruling.

**Bark, Cascara Sagrada.**—The price has been very unsteady for new bark, 3 to 6 3/4 cents, and for old bark 8 to 10 cents; sales have been very large.

**Bark, Cinchona.**—Calisaya selling all the year from 15 to 22 cents, as to test.

**Bark, Cinchona.**—Red selling 12 to 18 cents, as to test. The imports for first seven months of this year nearly 600,000 pounds against 400,000 same time 1897.

**Berries, Saw Palmetto.**—This new drug may go to high figures; they nearly all come from Florida, and people, on account of the great number of soldiers being in the State, have more profitable employment, and will not gather them. Selling in October, 1897, at 6 cents; now (September, 1898), 10 to 12 cents.

**Buds, Balm of Gilead.**—Very fluctuating: selling 1897, October, 30 cents; 1898, January, 35 cents; March, 40 cents; May, 24 cents; July, 22 cents; September, 26 cents ; October, 28 cents.

**Beans, Tonka, Angostura.**—Have declined very much; 1897, October, \$1.60; 1898,

March, \$1.45 to \$1.50; July, \$1.25 to \$1.30; September, \$1.15 to \$1.25 per pound, and Para Beans now selling 12 to 15 cents per pound; Surinam, 45 to 50 cents.

**Beans, Vanilla, Mexican.**—Have declined; 1897, \$10.00 to \$13.00 per pound; now (1898) selling \$7.75 to \$13.00 per pound, and cuts \$7.25 to \$7.50.

**Beans, Vanilla, Bourbon.**—Are much lower, quoted \$4.50 to \$7.00 per pound, as to quality.

**Camphor.**—For many years this has not been so steady as the past year, and sales have been very large.

**Camphor, Japanese.**—Has been steady.

**Cantharides, Chinese.**—Have advanced.

**Cantharides, Russian.**—Declined during the year.

**Ergot.**—Has only advanced slightly past year; 1897, German selling 14 cents; now (1898) at 18 cents per pound; and the Spanish, 1897, 18 to 20 cents; in September, 1898, selling 23 to 25 cents.

**Flowers, Arnica.**—Prices are very low, selling all the year from 5 to 7 cents, as to quality.

**Flowers, Chamomile, Belgian (Roman).**—Have advanced.

**Flowers, Chamomile, German.**—A sharp advance only lately; 1897, October 16 to 20 cents; 1898, September, 22 to 28, and 35 cents for some very choice.

**Flowers, Lavender.**—A new demand has increased the sales, and now selling ordinary 3 to 4 cents, and select from 9 to 12 cents.

**Glycerin.**—Has been rather more regular in price.

**Green Soap, German.**—Government officials discovered that there is a duty of 15 cents per pound on this, and price was advanced very much, selling, 1897, October, 6 to 6 1/2 cents; January, 22 to 24 cents. It is now being made in this country, and selling from 5 to 8 cents, as to quality; this is quotation in kegs.

**Gum Arabic.**—Has declined during the year; selling October, 1897, first \$.55 cents; seconds, 34 cents; thirds, 27 cents; sorts, 17 cents; now, 1898, September, 48 to 50 cents; seconds, 32 cents; thirds, 27 cents, and sorts 16 to 17 cents.

**Gum Aloes, Barbadoes True.**—19 to 21 cents, and so-called in gourds, 5 to 6 cents.

**Gum Aloes, Cape.**—5 to 6 cents all the year.

**Gum Aloes, Curacoa.**—2 1/2 to 3 1/2, cents. This now has a large sale, said to contain

the largest percentage of aloin of all the gums.

**Gum Aloes, Socotrine**—20 to 24 cents, as to quality.

**Leaves, Cocoa, Huanacoa**.—1897, September, 15 to 17 cents; December, 21 to 24 cents; now selling at 20 cents.

**Leaves, Cocoa, Truxillo**.—1897, September, 10½ to 12 cents; November, 15 to 18 cents; February, 1898, 12 cents; September, 10 cents.

**Oil, Aniseed**.—Changes in price like a Chinese puzzle; 1897, October, \$2.10; November, \$1.85; December, \$1.70; 1898, April, \$1.60; May, \$1.55; June, \$1.75; September, \$1.67.

**Oil, Neroli Pelali**.—Perfumers must have found something new, as sales of this oil are growing less. Price has been \$27 per pound, declining to \$25 at this writing.

**Oil, Cloves**.—Advanced very much.

**Oil, Cubeb**.—Demand growing less; prices very low.

**Opium**.—Prices have advanced very much. We give the figures, average for each month: 1897, October, \$2.60; November, \$2.60 to \$2.85; December, \$2.60; 1898, January, \$2.85; February, \$2.90 to \$3; March, \$3 to \$3.10; April, \$3.10 to \$3.25; May, \$3.25 to \$3.65; June, \$3.45 to \$3.65; July, \$3.60 to \$3.80; August, \$3.65 to \$3.75; September, \$3.60 to \$3.65. Imports for year, June 30, 1897, to June 30, 1898, 123,845 pounds. The previous year the import was 1,072,914 pounds, a decrease in the past year of 949,069 pounds.

**Paris, Green**.—The sales of this are getting less every year.

**Root, Calamus, Bleached**.—It is said that the shrinkage of this root is very great, and prices are according to amount of moisture; selling now, 1898 September, from 28 to 35 cents.

**Root, Ipecac**.—This has reached the highest figure in the memory of many of us; selling in 1897, October, \$1.65; November, \$1.75; 1898, January, \$2; March, \$1.90; May, \$2.20; June, \$2.35; September, \$2.45 to \$2.60.

**Root, Lady Slipper**.—An other uncertainty as to price. Very little gathered this year.

**Root, Mayapple**.—Where this all is gathered is too much for your committee to say; believed by some to amount to nearly 2,000,000 pounds; prices have not been so high.

**Root, Orris**.—This has again declined. Florentine, from 12 cents in 1897, to 9½ and 10 cents in September, 1898, and Verona, from 9 cents in 1897, to 7 and 8 cents in September, 1898.

**Root, Pink.**—Only small decline; selling now, 17 to 20 cents, as to quality.

**Root, Rhubarb.**—This has been regular at the advance price of 1897, Canton, 30 to 40 cents, and Shensi, 50 to 65 cents.

**Root, Sarsaparilla, Honduras.**—Selling all the year, 28 to 34 cents.

**Root, Sarsaparilla, Mexican.**—Selling 5 1/2, to 6 1/2 cents.

**Root, Senega.**—Only the usual small changes.

**Root, Squill.**—Sales getting smaller; either new remedies for the babies or no babies for the squills. Price, 4 cents, all year.

**Saffron, American.**—Very low all the year; 12 cents all the year; now, September, 1898, selling at 11 cents.

**Saffron, Valencia.**—Selling 1897, September, \$10.50; declining 1898, March, \$9, and May, \$10.50 to \$11; September, \$10 per pound.

**Sulphur.**—The war helped many of us to make very large profits on sulphur, being contraband of war, expected scarcity, many manufacturers bought heavy and at high figures, selling up to May 1, 1898, at 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 cents, less 10 per cent. for quantity; when in one day it advanced to 6 and 7 cents net; May 7th dropped to 3 1/2 and 4 cents; July, 3 and 3 1/4 cents; August, 2 1/4 to 2 4 cents; September, 2 to 2 3/8 cents, by discount of 5 to 10 per cent., as to quantity.