THE COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN SECRET REMEDIES.*

A CONSUMPTION CURE.

A PROPRIETARY medicine which has been brought to our notice since the earlier article on consumption remedies was published (BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, 1908, vol. ii, p. 505) is sold under the name Liqufruta, from "The Liqufruta Laboratory," 193, Camberwell Grove, London, S.E. There appear to be two varieties of this medicine, the one being called simply "Liqufruta," and described on the label as "cure for consumption cough, whooping and every other cough," while the other is called "Liqufruta Medica," and is described on the label as "The Great Consumption Cure." The price of the latter is 2s. 9d., and the bottle was found to contain 12½ fluid ounces.

Other particulars given on the label are as follows:

Liqufruta Medica the Only Safe Cure for Pulmonary Consumption, Chronic Asthma, Bronchitis, Catarrh.

Certain of the germicidal constituents contained in this remedy are otherwise unobtainable throughout the world.

Guaranteed free of poison, laudanum, copper solution, cocaine, morphia, opium, chloral, calomel, paregoric, narcotics, or preservatives. . . .

Liqufruta Medica heals the chest, lungs, and throat, arrests the inflammation, loosens the phlegm, and effectually destroys the bacilli of consumption, etc., which no other medicine can reach. Whilst the cough will be eased at once, the expectoration will be more profuse for a short time.

Directions. One dessertspoonful every two hours; in severe cases every hour, and also during the night whenever cough is troublesome; take a dose when getting into bed and the moment of awaking in the morning. When symptoms moderate and pronounced benefit has been obtained, the doses may be administered with one and a half to two hours interval if desired.

The mixture was found to be a dark brown, rather thick liquid, smelling like a mixture of garlic or onion and peppermint. On distilling, a trace of volatile oil was obtained, the distillate closely resembling the liquid obtained by distilling onion and a trace of oil of peppermint with water; 100 parts by measure of the mixture contained 10.05 parts of solids; of these, 2.05 parts were of mucilaginous or pectinous nature, 3.44 parts were glucose, and 2.28 parts were cane sugar. A decoction of onion was found to contain a mucilaginous substance somewhat similar to that obtained from the mixture.

The liquid was acid, and on evaporation and ignition yielded an ash which was alkaline, the acidity before and the alkalinity after ignition being approximately equivalent. This is characteristic of acid salts containing an alkali-metal and an organic acid, such as potassium bitartrate. The ash contained a considerable proportion of potassium, but in the presence of the sugars and vegetable extractive the small quantity of tartaric acid could not be identified; the acidity and alkalinity indicated 0.4 part (in 100 fluid parts) of potassium bitartrate, accounting for 0.16 part of ash; the total ash was 0 4 part, and the other constituents were such as are found in the ash of most vegetable extracts.

Alkaloid was present in very small quantity, the amount being about 0.01 per cent.; this consisted of two (or more) alkaloids, neither of which gave the reactions of any of the ordinary medicinal alkaloids. The other constituents consisted of tannin, a trace of resin, and extractive. The original liquid had a very slightly pungent taste, such as would be given by a trace of a preparation of capsicum or ginger.

The results of the analysis thus showed:

Oil of peppermint		
Oil of onion, or garlic	traces	
Alkaloids		
Potassium bitartrate	0.4	part
Glucose	3.44	parts
Cane sugar	2.28	,,
Mucilaginous matter	2.05	,,
Tannin		
Extractive	together 1.9	,,
Resin		
Water	to 100 parts by measure	

No alcohol was present, and no metallic salts beyond the traces ordinarily accompanying plant extracts.

Examination of the plain Liqufruta (for cough) did not show any important differences between it and "Liqufruta Medica."

A PREVENTIVE OF SEA SICKNESS.

Various proprietary remedies for sea sickness have been put forward at one time and another, but none of those now in the market appears to have come into very general use. One of the most recently introduced is being supplied under the name Zotos, and is at present being very widely advertised. From information supplied to us by correspondents with regard to its effects, it appeared to be of interest to submit it to analysis, and the results of our analysis are here presented.

Zotos is supplied by Zotos, Limited, Theobald's Road, London, W.C.; the price is 2s. 9d. per box containing twelve capsules.

It is described on the outside of the package as "the infallible remedy against sea sickness"; on the inner package it is stated that

Zotos is an infallible remedy against sea sickness, train sickness, etc.

Zotos not only prevents sickness but stimulates the appetite.

Zotos contains no injurious drug and produces no bad after-effects.

A circular contained in the package gives a so-called "analytical report" on the preparation, in which it is stated that the capsules "are free from any noxious ingredient," and that the contents "consist of compounds of high therapeutic activity."

Somewhat lengthy directions are given, the principal part being as follows:

The capsules to be swallowed whole and to be taken before, not after, a meal.

Take a capsule half an hour before the steamer sails, another just as the steamer leaves, and a third (though this is rarely required) half an hour later. Afterwards, if any uneasiness be caused by the movement of the vessel, capsules may be taken from time to time up to 6 per day. If travelling by night, take a capsule on going to bed and another half an hour before getting up.

The capsules were found to contain a pink powder, the average weight of the contents of one being 6.3 grains. Analysis showed the powder to consist of a mixture of sugar of milk and chlorbutol, with traces of colouring and flavouring matters. Chlorbutol, or trichlor-tertiary butyl alcohol, is better known under the trade name, Chloretone. It is described in the *British Pharmaceutical Codex* as "a local anaesthetic, analgesic, and antiseptic." "Its anaesthetic properties are specially exerted upon the stomach, small repeated doses being used to allay post-operative vomiting and sea sickness."

The proportions of the ingredients were found to be:

Chlorbutol	76.9 per cent.
Lactose	23.0 ,,

No other substance was found, except the traces of colouring and flavouring matters already mentioned.

The estimated cost of the ingredients for twelve capsules is 5d.

A REMEDY FOR FITS.

A qualitative analysis of a specimen bottle of a remedy for fits which a correspondent informs us is prepared by a chemist in Guernsey, and has a large sale in the Channel Islands, showed that it contained bromides of potassium and ammonium, sugar, a little chloroform, a little alcohol, and small quantities of bitter and aromatic substances which were evidently the constituents of compound infusion of gentian. No evidence of any other ingredient was found.

A SPECIFIC FOR UTERINE DISEASES.

A correspondent has called our attention to the "Orange Blossom Specific for Uterine Diseases." In a circular it is stated to be the invention of a doctor practising in Chicago, and it is declared not to be "a quack remedy," and that it "cannot be analysed." The inventor "was impelled by his own domestic necessities to the discovery of this marvellous remedy." It is stated that it "may and sometimes does set up . . . pruritus vulvae from the operation of the remedy on the diseased organs," but in a separate slip it

* Previous articles of this series were published in the following issues of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL: 1904, vol. ii, p. 1585; 1906, vol. ii, pp. 27, 1645; 1907, vol. i, p. 213; vol. ii, pp. 24, 160, 209, 393, 530, 1653; 1908, vol. i, pp. 833, 942, 1373; vol. ii, pp. 86, 505, 1022, 1110, 1193, 1285, 1566, 1697, 1875; 1909, vol. i, pp. 31, 909, 1128.

is recommended for the treatment of this condition. Further, it is stated that, "if not curing cancer (with a few exceptions) except in the incipient stages," it at least relieves the agony and removes "the most unpleasant features of the loathsome and incomprehensible disease."

The principal constituents of the specific were found on analysis to be alum and boric acid, the basis being principally soft paraffin. The total weight of the one product sent was 70 grains, and the alum and boric acid together constituted more than one-half of it.

CONGRESS OF RADIOLOGY AND ELECTRICITY.

AN International Congress on Radiology and Electricity will take place in Brussels on September 6th, 7th, and 8th, 1910, in connexion with the exhibition to be held there. There will be three sections. In the first section general questions of terminology and methods of measurement in radio-activity and subjects connected with ions, electrons, and corpuscles will be dealt with. The second section will be divided into various subsections, dealing respectively with fundamental theories of electricity, study of radiations (including spectroscopy, chemical effects of radiations, and other allied questions), radio-activity, atomic theory, cosmical phenomena (including atmospheric electricity and atmospheric radio-activity). The third section will be biological, and will be devoted to consideration of the effects of radiations on living organisms. Its programme is as follows:

SECTION III.

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES.

A. *Biology Proper.*

In this division will be included all communications relative to the action of various radiations upon organisms. The questions so far suggested as subjects for consideration are:

1. Action of *x* rays and radio-activity on cellular elements.
2. Action of radiations in general on the development of plants.

MEDICAL RADIOLOGY.

B. *Radio-diagnosis.*

Under this head will be included all medical applications of radioscopy and radiography. The three following subjects have so far been suggested:

1. Rapid and instantaneous radiography.
2. Physiological and pathological investigations of the stomach and intestines.
3. Endodiascopy.

C. *Radio-therapy.*

The communications under this heading will be those having reference to the treatment of various affections by:

(*a*) *X* rays.
(*b*) Radio-activity.
(*c*) Other radiations.

The subjects so far suggested as suitable for discussion are:

1. Filtration of rays (*x* rays and radio-activity).
2. Radio-active medicaments.
3. Treatment of vascular naevi by radium.
4. The present position of light treatment and its various modifications.
5. Treatment of cancer by radium.

Committees to promote the success of the congress have been formed in the various countries which will take part in it. Professor Rutherford, of Manchester, is the president of the committee for Great Britain and Ireland; Mr. Makower, lecturer in the University of Manchester, and Dr. W. Deane Butcher, editor of the *Archives of the Roentgen Rays*, London, are its secretaries.

General communications regarding the congress may be addressed to Professor Rutherford or Mr. Makower at the University of Manchester, but communications relating to the biological and medical section should be addressed to Dr. W. Deane Butcher, Holyrood, Cleveland Road, Ealing, London, W. Any person who desires to become a member of the congress should, however, communicate his intention to the General Secretary, Dr. J. Daniel, 1, rue de la Prévôté, Brussels, direct.

MR. WILLIAM SOPER, medical officer of the Jews' Hospital and Orphan Asylum, Norwood, was last week presented with a handsome silver rose bowl and a tea and coffee service as a token of the committee's appreciation of his services to the hospital during forty-six years. He is succeeded by his son Dr. Bertram Soper. The presentation was made by Sir George Faudel-Phillips, President of the institution.

LITERARY NOTES.

OF the official publications of the London County Council, none are of greater interest to the general reader—who probably is for the most part unaware of their existence—than the collection of pamphlets relating to houses of historical interest or made shrines of hero worship by the fact that illustrious persons have dwelt there. It was on December 17th, 1901, that the Council, on the recommendation of the Historical Records and Buildings Committee, decided to undertake the work which till then had been carried on by the Society of Arts, of indicating houses of historical interest in London. The first memorial tablet (to Macaulay) was unveiled by Lord Rosebery on Holly Lodge, Campden Hill, W., on November 26th, 1903. Since then a number of others have been put up. On December 13th, 1904, the Council decided to commemorate the residence of Jenner at 14, Hertford Street, Mayfair, and on August 19th, 1905, a tablet was fixed on the house. It may be recalled that when Jenner was granted a sum of money by Parliament in 1802, the Chancellor of the Exchequer in arguing that the grant should not exceed £10,000, laid stress on the advantages which could accrue to Jenner from an extended practice. Elated by the prospect thus held out, Jenner says he took a house in London for ten years at a high rent and furnished it, but his first year's practice convinced him of his own temerity and imprudence and of the falsity of the Minister's predictions. His fees fell off both in number and value, for people sent to their own family doctors to perform vaccination, alleging that they could not think of troubling him about a thing so easily executed. After a year in London he gave up hope of establishing a lucrative practice there, and returned to Berkeley. On October 11th, 1907, a tablet was affixed to 31, Golden Square, where John Hunter lived from the early part of 1763 till about 1770, when he took over the house of his brother William in Jermyn Street. The house, it is said, does not appear to have been rebuilt or seriously altered since the time when Hunter was its tenant. His practice during the time he lived in Golden Square was so small that it must have left him abundant time for original work. It is satisfactory that medicine is not altogether ignored; but we feel inclined to say, as Charles Lamb did when some one showed him a small book entitled *Beauties of Shakespeare*: "This is good enough; but where are the other ten volumes?"

The Association for the Study of Medical History, which was founded last year at Perugia, held its first formal Congress recently at Venice under the presidency of Professor Davide Giordano. A message of congratulation was sent to the University of Padua, where a chair of the history of medical and physical science has been established. We can only mention one or two of the communications read. Dr. Carbonelli was to have read a paper on the teaching of midwifery in Italy, illustrated by photographs of a very rare mannikin made in wax, of detachable pieces, and dating from about 1600, but these were not available. Professor Fiocco presented a dissertation on prostitution in Padua. The Venetian Republic had special laws regulating it, and breach of them was punished by fines, imprisonment, and other penalties. Prostitutes had to wear a red hood. At Padua there are no documents relating to the early history of syphilis, but at Venice, as far back as in 1512, persons suffering from that disease were admitted to the Hospital for Incurables. There were doctors who gave their services gratuitously to prostitutes. Dr. Giordano dealt with the Medico-Chirurgical College of Venice, of which he had examined the official records from 1476 to 1801. The college provided for the daily teaching of surgery and the annual demonstration in anatomy. The surgeons belonging to the corporation were exempt from taxes; they gave expert opinions on matters referred to them, and adjudicated on questions of fees and professional conduct. The college also safeguarded the rights of surgeons against physicians, and waged war against unqualified practice. He sketched the history of the "Priors" or Presidents of the College, dwelling especially on the important work done by Jacopo Grandi, who raised the corporation to its highest pitch of dignity and influence, made examinations more stringent, insisted on the teaching of anatomy and physiology, the lectures being some-