

NOTES FROM THE MEDICAL PRESS

IN CHARGE OF

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SIMPLE TREATMENT OF POISONING WITH MALEFERN.—The *New York Medical Journal* says: Malefern (aspidium), which is so often used in the treatment of tapeworm, sometimes produces very serious poisoning even after moderate doses. Thus twelve grammes of the extract produced a condition of collapse in a very strong patient, and injections of camphor and other remedies were tried without success. A very simple remedy was then administered, namely, the juice of a lemon, which immediately relieved the patient's symptoms and very quickly produced vomiting, after which the patient rapidly recovered. In giving the extract of malefern for the removal of tapeworms, Apolant (*Deutsche medizinische Wochenschrift*, 1905, No. 44) recommends the use of a powder consisting of five grains each of menthol and sugar of milk. This is given in wafers half an hour before the tapeworm remedy is taken. Other remedies which are recommended for the prevention of poisoning after taking malefern are black coffee and peppermint."

PATENT MEDICINES.—The *Journal of the American Medical Association* is carrying on a strenuous crusade against the traffic in patent medicines. This subject is also being dealt with in no uncertain manner in *The Ladies' Home Journal* and *Collier's Weekly*.

A few facts are instanced here to show the necessity of this campaign.

A nostrum called Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup, in which morphine is a principle ingredient, is said to have caused two deaths, that of an infant named Keck and a child two years old in Morocco, Indiana.

Pink Pills for Pale People, advertised to cure paralysis, are a compound of green vitriol, starch and sugar.

Peruna contains about 40% of alcohol. It would be better to give *spiritus frumenti* without disguise.

Most of the patent medicines owe what efficacy they possess to morphine, opium, cocaine, strychnine, or alcohol. Powerful drugs, not