

pharmaceutical manufacturing houses making pills or tablets. The following list taken from the catalogue of a pharmaceutical manufacturer, is typical of its kind:

39. Amenorrhoea.
285. Emmenagogue, "A." Bonjean.
- Emmenagogue Hobermann (721).
286. Emmenagogue, "B." Hooper.
287. Emmenagogue, "C." No. 4.
288. Emmenagogue, "D." Mutter.
- Emmenagogue, Mutter, Improved (710)
- Ergotin, Bonjean, 2 gr. (713).
- Ergotin, Bonjean, 3 gr. (714).
- Ergotin, Bonjean, 5 gr. (715).
294. Ergotin Compound, Goodson.

Should the firms who list these preparations be charged with the matter, their defense would be that all these many formulas for "emmenagogue pills" were made at the request of physicians, who prescribed them. While the defense is a weak one, nevertheless we believe that physicians should carefully refrain from prescribing such ready-made formulas. This applies particularly to preparations having therapeutically suggestive names, names which the public is likely to understand—or misunderstand—and to recommend for purposes not thought of by the prescriber. It is but another illustration of the general objectionableness of "ready-made prescriptions."

PRESS-CLIPPINGS AND NOSTRUM ENTERPRISE

Of the many charges that may be preferred against the "patent medicine" makers, lack of enterprise in obtaining prospective victims is not one of them. We have referred before to that brilliant stroke of advertising done by the exploiters of Purgin, who panegyrized their purgative on sheets of toilet paper. More recently two cases have been brought to our attention in which "patent medicine" makers have resorted to the use of the press-clipping bureaus, for lists of possible purchasers. The following news item appeared in the Brockton (Mass.) *Times*.

"Mrs. Wm. Wilcox is at the Jordan Hospital, suffering from an attack of acute rheumatism."

This piece of news was garnered in by a clipping bureau and sent to one of its customers—the exploiters of the nostrum "Angeline." If its manufacturers are to be believed—which they are not—"Angeline will permanently cure acute and chronic rheumatism." So the Angeline booklet is sent to Mrs. Wilcox, evidently in the belief that advertising bread cast on the waters may come back after many days in the form of an order.

Raymond & Co., who sell "Raymond's Pectoral Plasters," also use press-clippings. A Sunday-school superintendent, of a small village in Virginia, recently received one of Raymond's "positive cures" for whooping-coughs, bronchitis, etc., with the following ingenious note:

Dear Sir:—We noticed in the _____ *Journal* that Whooping Cough is interfering with the attendance of your school and are of the opinion that RAYMOND'S PECTORAL PLASTERS are not known in your vicinity, or this would not be the case. We wish you would hand the one inclosed to the mother of one of the little ones affected, that she may see for herself what they ACCOMPLISH. Then when you are both satisfied as to their MERIT will you kindly advise us, on the inclosed card the name of the merchant in _____ who sells medicines of any kind that we may take up with him the sale of these Pectoral Plasters in your community.

Association News

THE LOS ANGELES SESSION

Additional Data About the Annual Session This Month

The Sixty-Second Annual Session of the American Medical Association will be held in Los Angeles, June 27 to 30. THE JOURNAL commenced to give information about it in February. In March there were full details of the railroad arrangements. The Los Angeles Number was issued May 20, devoting twenty-seven pages to a detailed and illustrated write-up. In that issue the programs of the sections were given. Additional information was published May 27, page 1589. The following additional announcements have been received:

MEDICAL ALUMNI REUNIONS AT LOS ANGELES

The usual class reunions will be held on Tuesday evening, June 27. The committee, through the local representatives of the various alumni, will arrange for the places of meeting and procure to the members the most reasonable rates for the dinners. A large register in charge of an attendant will be at the Bureau of Registration on the fourth floor of the Hamburger Building, Eighth and Broadway, where the alumni of the various colleges are requested to register. Members of the Association will confer a great favor on the committee by attending to this, as it will be impossible in any other manner to determine the number to be provided for by the caterers at the various reunion dinners. Information will be given by the registrar as to the places in the city where the reunions are held. It would greatly facilitate the work of the committee if the members who expect to attend reunions would at once notify the chairman by letter.

ANDREW STEWART LOBINGIER, Chairman,
Committee on Section Entertainment and Alumni Reunions.
608 Helman Building, Los Angeles.

RED CROSS FIRST AID CAR

The American Red Cross First Aid Car will be at Los Angeles during the Annual Session. This car, engaged in teaching first aid to the injured in the various parts of our country, is devoted primarily to such instruction on the railroads, but at the various stops made opportunity is always taken to instruct employees in the various manufacturing plants and others. At Los Angeles we will be very glad to receive all members of the American Medical Association who care to visit the car. Its location will be announced later.

CHARLES LYNCH,
Major, Med. Corps, U. S. Army, in Charge, First Aid Dept.

MEDICAL EDITORS TO MEET

The annual meeting of the American Medical Editors' Association will be held at the Alexandria Hotel, June 26 and 27, under the presidency of Dr. Joseph MacDonald, Jr. The annual banquet will be Monday evening at the same hotel. Further information can be obtained from Dr. MacDonald at 92 William Street, New York.

Correspondence

New Suture Material

To the Editor:—For a number of months I have been using, particularly in certain forms of plastic work, a new suture material to which my attention was first called by Dr. Gates, of Bucyrus, O. The material is enameled copper wire. This wire is used in electric work, is very cheap, and I have found it very satisfactory. I get it in two sizes, the smaller size taking the place perfectly of horsehair, while being in many respects much more satisfactory. I use it largely in cases in which I wish to secure accurate apposition of skin incision so as to avoid scar. I have also used the larger size in cleft palate work, using a shot to secure the ends of the wire, the shot not only holding the ends securely but in a large measure keeping the child from working his tongue against the roof of the mouth.

This wire is made by the Dudlo Manufacturing Company, of Cleveland, and it is so cheap that a dollar's worth will last for these purposes a long while. I have been using a larger size in some cases in closing the abdominal incision, but am not sure that it presents any advantages over silkworm-gut, except that it is materially cheaper.

J. F. BALDWIN, M.D., Columbus, O.

The Round Ligament Operation

To the Editor:—In THE JOURNAL, May 20, is a letter from Dr. Raymond Turck, of Jacksonville, Fla., concerning the round ligament operation which has been under discussion. He makes therein a statement which may be construed as