

given below.<sup>1</sup> They show that Phenol Sodique contains something like 0.5 or 0.66 per cent. of phenols, dissolved in about 0.75 per cent. of sodium hydroxid. In other words, it appears to be essentially a very dilute alkaline solution of some impure coal-tar product, presumably of crude carbolic acid. The analysis could not profitably be carried further, because the amount of the antiseptic agent is so very small.<sup>2</sup>

The consideration of this analysis, in connection with the claims made for Phenol Sodique, leaves little doubt as to one reason for the secrecy concerning its composition; although no educated physician could be deceived into believing for a moment that Phenol Sodique could fulfill the promises of its promoters, even if it were "the best antiseptic, hemostatic and disinfectant on the market," as the manufacturers say in their advertisements.

From its composition, it can only have the very moderate and ordinary antiseptic qualities of a dilute phenol or cresol solution, modified only to a very slight extent by the free alkali. According to the manufacturers, however, "Phenol Sodique is a wonderful preparation." Just how wonderful appears from these extracts from the dissertations in the pamphlet which is enclosed in the package. Note particularly the matter which we have put in capitals:

"*Catarrh, Old Colds, etc.*: Drink every morning and evening a glass of water containing ten to thirty drops of Phenol Sodique.

"*SMALLPOX: TO PREVENT ATTACK* take internally three or four times a day, fifteen or twenty drops of Phenol Sodique in one tablespoonful of sugar and water.

"*Measles, Scarlatina and Erysipelas*: Same treatment as for Smallpox.

"*TYPHOID FEVER: TO PREVENT ATTACK* take internally three or four times a day, fifteen or twenty drops of Phenol Sodique.

"*CHOLERA: TO PREVENT* spread sawdust or sand, wet with Phenol Sodique, in apartments.

"*THE VERY BEST PRECAUTION* is to drink, morning and evening, a glass of water containing from fifteen to thirty drops of Phenol Sodique.

"*Premonitory Diarrhea*: . . . . . Drink a teaspoonful of Phenol Sodique diluted in an ounce of water.

This is the kind of therapeutics and prophylaxis taught to the medical profession by their self-appointed instructors, the proprietors!

But this matter has a serious, as well as a ludicrous, side: What is the proper epithet to apply to those who, knowingly and intentionally, impress on the ignorant lay public that one can with impunity expose himself to smallpox, cholera, typhoid or scarlet fever, or measles, by taking a few drops of very dilute carbolic acid, or by sprinkling a little on sawdust? What must be the consequences to those who trust in these assurances? And what should be the lawful penalty for those whose blunted moral instincts permit them wilfully to endanger the lives of others for a little financial gain? It would be interesting to know the real opinion of the responsible members of the firm of Hance Bros. & White on these questions.

The Montyon Prize was awarded by the French Institute in 1861—forty-six years ago—how many victims a year?

1. EXAMINATION OF PHENOL SODIQUE.—Phenol Sodique is a black, strongly alkaline liquid, having a cresol-like odor. No carbon dioxide is set free on addition of acids. On evaporation and ignition a residue remains behind which contains sodium. The product gives the characteristic tests of phenols; because of the small amounts present the distinction of cresols from phenol was not attempted. On evaporation, a tarry residue remains. The following determinations were made:

	SPECIMEN A. A. M. A. Lab.	SPECIMEN B. — A. M. A. Lab. analysis.	Check
Specific gravity (at 15.5° C.)	1.014	1.011	1.012
Phenols (bromin absorption calculated to phenol)	.65	.44	.59
Residue (evaporation residue dried 10 hours at 100° C.)	2.56	2.02	2.10
Sodium hydroxid (evaporation residue charred, leached, and its alkalinity calculated to NaOH)	.70	.81	.84

2. Phenol Sodique (H. B. & W.) must not be confused with similarly named products of the pharmacopelas and formularies, since these contain a very much greater percentage of phenol. For instance, the "Phenol Sodique" of the National Formulary (Liquor Sodii-Carbolatis) contains 50 per cent. of pure phenol, i. e., it has about a hundred times the strength of the proprietary preparation.

## Correspondence

### Drug Journals and Dr. McCormack's Address.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., Oct. 25, 1907.

To the Editor:—I notice that many of the drug journals are attacking rather strongly Dr. McCormack's remarks before the American Pharmaceutical Association, or rather that portion of them in which he stated that the National Association of Retail Druggists had representatives at some of the state legislatures, opposing desirable legislation.

N. A. R. D. Notes, for October 17, has a long article on this subject, which is mainly made up of a general denial of the charges, and an attack on Dr. McCormack. Of course, I can not speak for any other state, but so far as California is concerned, Dr. McCormack is perfectly correct, and the truth of his attitude has been pointed out twice in the *California State Journal of Medicine*; once in April, 1905, and again in October, 1907. During the session of the legislature of 1905, the representative of N. A. R. D. Notes, Mr. Cheatham, had prepared and introduced a bill amending the law regulating the practice of medicine, which, had it passed (at no time was there any danger of its passing), would have completely destroyed the value of our state medical law. Not only was this action accepted by the N. A. R. D. as an act of its official representative, but the publication of this association—N. A. R. D. Notes, printed, I believe in March, 1905, or thereabouts, a very self-laudatory article, in which, referring to this bill of Mr. Cheatham, it said: "We commend this bill to the consideration of the druggists of every state that have legislative fights on their hands, and counsel them that at times it is wise and necessary to fight fire with fire." The last expression is used because the avowed purpose of the bill introduced by Mr. Cheatham was to distract the attention of physicians from certain pure food and drug bills which had been introduced in the legislature. Incidentally, I may advise you that Mr. Cheatham's pernicious activity—whether it originated with him or was inspired by the home office of the N. A. R. D., I do not know—was entirely unnecessary, for the reason that the drug bills in question were not properly drawn, were not supported by any considerable number of our profession, and would not have passed.

PHILIP MILLS JONES.

### Sectarianism and the Philadelphia County Medical Society.

PITTSBURG, PA., Oct. 26, 1907.

To the Editor:—In THE JOURNAL, October 26, page 1448, I notice with pleasure that you record that the Philadelphia County Medical Society has introduced a resolution to admit all reputable practitioners of whatever school. In Pittsburg we have been doing this for several years. In 1905 our county society (Allegheny County) adopted ordinances and by-laws providing that: "Any legal regular practitioner of good moral character and professional standing, who is willing to subscribe to the Code of Ethics of the American Medical Association, shall be eligible as a candidate for membership in this society, without any restriction as to time or college of graduation, or time of residence in the county, other than ample time to allow the censors to investigate his character and standing."

The first graduate of a homeopathic school was admitted to membership in 1905 and since then several others have come in. We would have it distinctly understood, however, that homeopaths, etc., are not eligible, but that we welcome physicians irrespective of school or college, so long as they fulfill the requirements of Section 3 of our ordinances as quoted above, and cast off forever any "trade-mark" which they may have had.

We also feel that this same spirit should permeate the entire county and should be adopted by every county medical society.

EDWARD B. HECKEL.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 28, 1907.

To the Editor:—May I be permitted to correct the erroneous report of your Philadelphia correspondent (THE JOURNAL, October 26, page 1448) concerning the recent action of the Philadelphia County Medical Society in amending the section of its by-laws relating to qualifications for membership. On the blank form of application is printed the amendment as