

The former average dose prescribed was 2 to 5 minims, raised in future to 3 to 6 decimils which is practically 5 to 10 minims.

This means, of course, a reduction from 10 per cent. to 5 per cent. solution.

The change is justified by all experience with this salt of cocaine, much of its reputation for toxicity being due to over-dose, from the difficulty of entirely using the small amount in such concentration. It should be remembered, however, that this solution is even more hypertonic than the stronger one, that is, more diffusible, so that care should be exercised not to exceed the maximum dose in any case. Even so, as it is isotonic only in much greater strength (unless made with physiological salt solution), the addition of a trace of adrenalin is often desirable. The latter, of course, should be freshly made.

The keeping qualities of the official solution is still a disputed point of pharmacology; as also is the question whether it can be boiled, to sterilize, without material deterioration. The careful operator will take no risks either way.

We may mention, by the way, that the Pharmacopœia is for the first time enriched by a formula for strychnine injection—0.75 gm. of the hydrochloride in recently boiled cooled water to 100 mils. Dose the same as for cocaine, and quite enough too.

INVALUABLE assistance in obtaining substitutes or identical preparations instead of those hitherto associated with alien enemy trade-names is being afforded by the public-spirited **German Proprietary Remedies.** action of professional and scientific bodies. Our own Metropolitan Branch, on behalf of its Research Committee, for instance, asks us to publish the following interesting notice:—

The Research Committee of the Metropolitan Branch of the British Dental Association will be glad to give members assistance to enable them to use British products instead of German ones.

The Committee would point out that the Board of Trade are not likely to grant the use of patent rights or registered names of German products indefinitely, as this would endanger similar rights of British subjects in Germany. It therefore behoves members to order the corresponding British product by either its chemical name or by any new name that may be adopted by enterprising firms.

This country has not been able to compete with Germany in chemicals such as aspirin on account of the very heavy tax on alcohol; we must therefore be prepared to pay more unless the Government can see their way to assist in the capture of German trade by granting special licences for duty-free alcohol.

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As examples of proprietaries we would suggest to members
that for Lysol they order *liquor cresolis saponatus*, for Pebecco
chlorate of potash tooth paste B.P.C.; there are numerous
others on which the Research Committee will give their advice
if members will avail themselves of it.

It is unwise that the present names be used in ordering even
if "war time" licences be granted, as this means would only keep
the sale of the articles going to the ultimate benefit of the
German proprietor.

We only regret that the Research Committee, while they were
about it, did not see their way to giving an authoritative *imprimature*
to a select list—it would not be very long—of several much used
prescriptions of the Pharmacopœia or the Codex, which are practically
the same as those known by fancy names at higher prices. Acquaint-
ance with the systematic official name, and so ordering it, is no less
a professional duty than a patriotic economy. Any risk of "dis-
couraging private enterprise," British or the friendly foreign, would
be quite negligible.

Then it should be recorded that at the Sheffield University a
Scientific Advisory Committee has been formed, consisting of the
staffs of the Faculties of Science, pure and applied, and of the Depart-
ment of Economics; that the resources of the University shall be
available, as far as possible, in the following ways:—

(1) By directing manufacturers, experimenters, and inventors to
scientific and technical literature bearing upon the difficulties that
present themselves.

(2) By putting manufacturers in touch with suitable scientific and
expert opinion, and by giving such other help and advice as it may be
within the power of the staff to give.

Any person residing within the area covered by Sheffield Univer-
sity who desires such assistance should apply by letter to Dr. W. E. S.
Turner, Secretary, Applied Science Department, St. George's Square,
Sheffield.

This opportune academic recognition of the functions of a modern
university is extremely satisfactory and encouraging.

There is also a lesson to our intensive agriculturists and flower-
farmers conveyed by Mr. W. A. Whatmough, B.Sc., A.I.C., in *Nature*
(October 15), who hopes that the area under medicinal plants in this
country will be considerably extended as a result of the situation
created by the war, and trusts that when this is over and foreign
supplies are again available the necessary moral and patriotic support
to prevent it from relapsing will be forthcoming.