

The preparation was examined by the Association's chemists who reported, in part, as follows:

"From the analysis (made in the Association's laboratory) it appears that Louisenbad Reduction Salt has essentially the following composition:

Sodium sulphate, anhydrous (dried Glauber salt)72.4 per cent.
Sodium chlorid (common salt)11.2 per cent.
Potassium chlorid16.4 per cent.

"The approximate cost of 14 ounces of such a mixture would be about 10 cents."

It is hardly necessary to say that taking a bath in a tubful of water in which a tablespoonful of a mixture of Glauber salt, table salt and potassium chlorid has been dissolved would have no other effect than that obtained from bathing in the same amount of water without the mixture. Two such baths a week would produce no appreciable effect in the diminution of weight of any individual who was not extremely dirty.

Correspondence

An Endowment Fund

To the Editor:—In contemplating the great humanitarian work which the Association and THE JOURNAL are doing—the propoganda for reform, the publication of Nostrums and Quackery, the work of the Council on Medical Education, the educational campaign against the social evil—I am impressed of late with this one thought: If the Association, with its limited resources, could accomplish so much in so short a time, what might we expect of it if its resources were large and secure! What, if we had a great endowment fund, might we expect from the coming years! What vast possibilities lie dormant for the lack of the one needful thing—money! How many people of great wealth, big-hearted, big-souled—"sun crowned, who live above the fog in public duty and in private thinking"—who would gladly bequeath liberal sums to a fund which could be used for such great and lofty purposes! Surely there is no greater service to mankind than that which this Association stands ready and pledged to perform if it had the wherewithal to do it. Why can we not establish such a fund and endeavor in every way available to let it be known, and for what purpose it exists? Why would it not be right and proper to seek out philanthropy and lay bare the great human needs that should be ministered to, and the great human purposes and ideals which this Association has in offering such ministry? I know not but this may be already a fixed policy with the Association. Already others may have had their own dreams and formulated them into fixed plans. If so, I am an intruder. If not, does the suggestion seem to merit some consideration?

S. A. FOOTE, M.D., Bay City, Tex.

Blood Transfusion in 1492?

To the Editor:—Under this title Dr. J. L. Joughin (THE JOURNAL, Feb. 14, 1914, p. 554) quotes from Villari's "Life of Savonarola" a passage purporting to give an "accurate record" of the first transfusion. The following passage from A. H. Mathew's "Life and Times of Rodrigo Borgia" (1912, Brentano's, p. 66) throws a somewhat different light on the same incidents:

"On the evening of July 25, 1492, the good-natured and incompetent Pope Innocent VIII passed away. It is related that, during his last illness, the operation for transfusion of blood was unsuccessfully performed. This, however, is an error arising from the forgetfulness of two important facts: (1) that the idea of this operation could not occur to any one to whom the circulation of the blood was unknown; (2) that the phenomenon of the circulation of the blood was not discovered until the seventeenth century. Raynaldus and Infessura say that a certain Jewish physician undertook to

restore the Pope's health; for this purpose he drew all the blood out of three young boys, who immediately died. With their blood he prepared a draught which, in spite of the doctor's protestations, failed to improve the sick pontiff's condition. The saving virtue of drinking human blood was no new idea."

Mathew then quotes from Tertullian's "Apologeticus" a passage referring to the practice of drinking, as a cure for epilepsy, the fresh blood of criminals killed in the arena.

C. R., Chicago.

"The Doctor Can Wait"

To the Editor:—In "A Poor Man's Bank," by Walter Prichard Eaton, *The American Magazine* for February, one reads the following:

To sit at a board meeting of the Atlanta Loan and Savings Company is an experience worth having. The secretary reads the new applications. John Doe applies for a loan of \$100. He is a clerk, with a salary of \$60 a month. His endorsers are a fellow clerk and his employer, or perhaps three or four of his fellow clerks. He has a wife and baby. The report on his character is good, and his endorsers are sound.

"What does he want the money for?" somebody asks. The secretary reads from the application: "Baby's been sick, operation cost \$50. Borrowed from shark. Owes doctor \$50, drugs \$12, grocer \$9, rent \$12, shark \$47. Wants to pay as much as he can. Shark has been threatening him."

"Who's the doctor?"
"Dr. Smith."
"I know him," says one of the directors. "He'll wait till we can get the man clear of his other debts. I'll see Smith to-night. That would reduce the indebtedness to \$80. Lend him \$80."
"Hang it up! On to the next!" cries Director Sawtelle. The vote is unanimous.

Picturing the bluff, confident delivery of this director, one cannot help but be amused. The amusement, however, changes to something very like resentment on reflecting how his view is accepted generally. The director and John Doe will as a matter of course agree that Dr. Smith's services were the most necessary and highly trained. Yet the doctor is to wait. Are either of these men able to reveal the supernatural source from which Dr. Smith is to derive his support?

Changing this lay point of view is a duty incumbent on him who implanted it—the physician.

LAWRENCE SCHLENKER, M.D., St. Louis.

The Comparison Ocular

To the Editor:—In the article by Dr. D. G. Healy, on "A Comparison Ocular" (THE JOURNAL, Nov. 29, 1913, p. 1958), stress is laid on the date since which it has been used (May, 1912), and it is stated that the instrument has been constructed by Messrs. Bausch & Lomb, from the idea suggested by Dr. Healy. Furthermore, it is stated that it antedates by six months the comparison microscope devised by Dr. Thoenner in Germany. The Comparison Ocular described, is not new but is over twenty years old. It was made by C. Reichert, Vienna, on the suggestion of Dr. Henri von Heurck. It is fully described on pages 105 and 106 in his book, "The Microscope, its Construction and Management." The English edition was published in 1893 by Crosby Zockwood & Son, London, England, and the D. Van Nostrand Company, New York.

A. TRAEGER, New York.

American representative, ERNST LEITZ.

[The foregoing letter was referred to Dr. Healy who writes: I am glad to have this information regarding the origin of the comparison ocular. When I suggested the comparison ocular to Messrs. Bausch & Lomb, I was not aware that such an ocular had been made, and the idea as such was original with me.—ED.]

Radium Prices in Germany.—Consul Milo A. Jewett of Kehl notes that the Strassburg Hospital and University some time ago bought 200 mg. of radium at \$76 per milligram, and has bought 100 mg. more, which will cost at present prices \$98 per milligram (or at the rate of \$3,000,000 an ounce, troy weight).—*Daily Consular and Trade Reports.*