Pharmacy and Chemistry

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Help the propaganda for reform by prescribing official preparations. The committees of the U. S. P. and N. F. are chosen from the very best therapeutists, pharmacologists, pharmacognosists and pharmacists. The formulae are carefully worked out and the products tested in scientifically equipped laboratories under the very best conditions. Is it not plausible to assume that these preparations are, at least, as good as those evolved with far inferior facilities by the mercenary nostrum maker who claims all the law will allow?

Patent Medicines in England.—We continually hear from hyphenated and semi-hyphenated Americans how much better things are done abroad than in this country. It is refreshing, therefore, to learn that some things are not so well done. England seems to be at least fifteen years behind us in the matter of regulating patent medicines. Apparently any nostrum may be foisted upon the unsuspecting public and any claim made, no matter how preposterous or dangerous.

Pil Mixed Treatment (Chichester), sold in the form of pills containing 1/20 grain mercuric iodid and 5 grains potassium iodid, has been extensively advertised as a standard routine treatment for syphilis, but has been refused admission to the N. N. R. because an examination made in 1907 showed that the claims were unwarranted, exaggerated and misleading.

"If heeded by those who read the advertising it will result in much harm to the public and the profession. For this reason the present report of the Council is published as a protest against any advertising propaganda advocating the routine treatment of a disease which requires that each case be studied carefully so that prompt and efficient measures may be applied to the various manifestations of the disease." (Jour. A. M. A., Oct. 22, 1921, p. 1355.)

The paragraph quoted should be put into permanent form and a copy sent to every physician, for it applies not alone to this preparation but to many others on the market. Every patient certainly has a right to ask that the physician consider his case by itself and prescribe for his case and his case alone, by using such remedies and such quantities as seem indicated and only using a proprietary preparation when it just happens to fit the individual case.

Endocrinology and Pseudo-Endocrinology.—R. G. Hoskins, Professor of Physiology, Ohio State University College of Medicine, pleads for a greater degree of discrimination on the part of physicians in evaluating not only proper data, but also the various agencies either seeking support in or exploiting this field. The latter aspect of the situation deserves special emphasis. Those who purpose acting as purveyors to the medical profession must accept the status of purveyors. The physicians or laboratory investigator of the medical sciences shall not exploit for commercial gain the result of his studies. At the present time a commercial campaign is being carried on by a "laboratory" purporting to specialize in endocrine products. The mail of physicians is flooded with a series of postcards, each card recommending and suggesting the use of the proprietary product of this self-styled laboratory for conditions ranging from eczema to epilepsy, and from obesity to tuberculosis. This free postcard advice is reinforced by reference to "monographs" and a trade journal in which scientific medicine is systematically belittled as unpractical. This advertising campaign is ostensibly under the supervision of the enterprising Mr. Hyde, the merchant of the firm. Mr. Hyde is a profound admirer of the eminent Dr. Jekyll, the medical director. (Jour. A. M. A., Nov. 5, 1921, p. 1499.)

STATE SOCIETY

Ladies who accompany their husbands to the convention of the Medical Society of the State of California in Yosemite National Park next May 15-18, will find many things of interest to occupy their time while the delegates are busy with the scientific program.

Yosemite Valley, where the convention will be held, is the center of life in Yosemite National Park, and the sunny verandas of Sentinel Hotel and Yosemite Lodge are ideal for rest and quiet recreation. Every evening there is an entertainment of high merit at Yosemite Lodge, followed by a dance.

Those who love horseback riding can obtain good horses for use on the beautiful trails of the valley. The finest trail is that which winds between the great boulders and trees of the east end of the valley, emerging at Mirror Lake. In the west end of the valley, the trail generally follows the tortuous course of the Merced River.

Guides can be obtained for numerous scenic one-day trips by horseback outside the valley. Most famous of all these is the trip to Glacier Point by way of Vernal and Nevada Falls, a distance of eleven miles, return being made over the four-mile trail by way of Union Point. Another trip of intense interest takes riders up the opposite or north wall of the valley to Yosemite Point at the brink of Yosemite Falls. This affords magnificent views of the entire 2565 feet of Yosemite Falls. Eagle Peak, tallest of the cliffs known as "Three Brothers," can be visited on the same trip.

Few thrills can equal the ascent of Half Dome, which usually can be made about the time the convention will meet, dependent on how rapidly the snow has melted at the 9,000 foot elevation. A ride of nine miles leads to the foot of the "Elephant Back," the great hump to the left of Half Dome as viewed from Yosemite Valley. It is a short walk over this to the foot of the Dome, which looms up more formidably than the dome of the Capitol in Washington. A little way up, however, and all nervousness vanishes. Steel cables on either side afford reassuring grips. Those who want added security can wear leather belts with clasps which fit the cables, to be found in a box at the beginning of the ascent. As steps are provided on the steepest slope, and the "plates" of the granite are cracked at intervals, thereby affording secure resting places, most persons think the belts unessential and only imposing burdensome weight. Rubber sole shoes and gloves should be worn on the climb.

At the top of Half Dome is one of the grandest views in the world. The most notable feature of the picture, perhaps, is the intimate glimpse into Tenaya Canyon, the granite walls of which are so steep and smooth that less than a dozen men ever have achieved its passage.

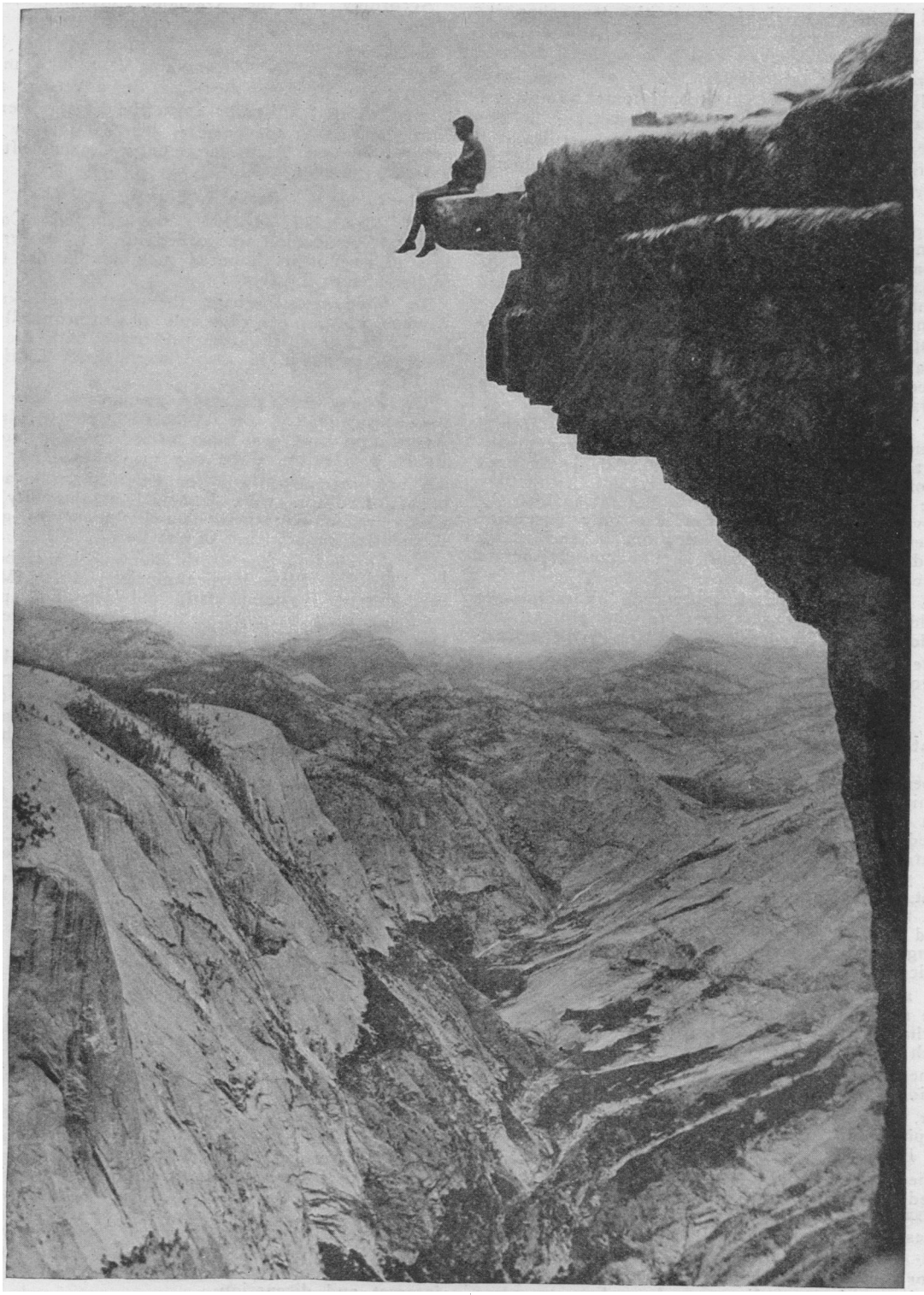
Persons unaccustomed to horses need feel no fear at mounting one of the Yosemite animals, for they are trained and gentle. However, there are motor trips of great beauty for those who prefer to travel by automobile. The finest of these is the trip to the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees, oldest and largest of all living things, California's most distinctive possessions, for they can be seen nowhere else in the world outside this State. The trip from Yosemite Valley is one of great interest, as the road goes by way of Artist and Inspiration Points, makes a circuit of the entire Mariposa Grove, including the famous tunnel tree Wawona and the American Legion Tree dedicated to the Unknown Dead in the World War, and allows ample time to see everything.

Another fine motor trip is the tour of Yosemite Valley, following the road which traverses the valley on both sides of the Merced River, affording close views of the cliffs and waterfalls.

Those who drive to the valley in their own automobiles should not fail to take the splendid fifteen-mile ride between Yosemite and El Portal, terminus of the railroad. The road is like a boulevard, and follows the turbulent Merced River up its narrow canyon, through the "Gates of the Valley"—one of the most scenic rides in America. It is interesting to note that the paved, all-year highway now being constructed between Mariposa and El Portal will follow this route into the park.

For those who like to hike there are walks innumerable, long or short, concerning which information will be given gladly at Yosemite Lodge, Sentinel Hotel or National Park Service headquarters. There is plenty to do in Yosemite—something to suit every taste!

One more thing—bring your camera. Few places can provide such wonderful opportunities for pictures.



GLACIER POINT, YOSEMITE VALLEY