THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE: SEPTEMBER 23, 1906

es Resorted to by Counterfeiters to Produce Marketable Article. "Although gold coins are not in circulation in the east in comparison with the total amount of paper money which leaves the gray walls of this old building," said an official of the Treasury department to a Washington Biar reporter, "there are, nevertheless, a great many of these coins current, and they are counterfeited, together with our allver coins, more than

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the average person would suppose. "I will give you a few suggestions on manufacture of good and counterfelt coins of the various denominations which will be of interest and value to the public. The three principal treasury tests of coins are: First, the weight; second, the diameter, and, third, the thickness. The counterfeiter who succeeds in making his dies and the spurious metal alloy which will meet all of these tests is indeed a smart With some alloys he may be able to one. work out the weight, but the diameter of the coin would reveal that it was a counterfeit product, or even a very slight increase in the thickness of the illicitly-made article would show at once its counterfeit origin

"The superior grade of coin counterfeits are made with a die. Some of the more perfect ones are almost exact replicas of our own minted products, and have a harp, true ring, smooth, well-finished surfaces, with the lettering and milling finely delineated. The reading-the little raised and indented marks on the edges of the coin-is not as sharp and clear as the reading on the genuine coins. While many of the finer counterfeits are of full weight, they are usually a little short of weight. Some of these gold coin counterfeits are so well made and are of such a fine appearance that they pass current until they reach the hands of the coin experts in this building.

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'The standard gold used by the mint is 900 fine, or 21.19 carats. The most deceptive gold counterfeits are made of a lower grade gold, of from 600 to 500 fine, and as ow as 400 fine in the more inferior grades of counterfeits. The most deceptive gold counterfeits are those which are manufactured from an alloy of gold, copper and silver. Platinum is a metal which is used by the expert counterfeiter to gain the necessary weight to his output, and when these platinum counterfeits are struck off in good dies, and then very heavily gold plated, they prove to be very dangerous counterfeits when first 'shoved' by the accomplices of the man who generally does the spurious minting, he usually keeping out of sight, for he is too valuable a man in the trade to be 'nabbed' in the passing stunt. The gold plating wears off in due time and the base metal is revealed.

"A comparison of the piece with the genuine of the same coinage and date, together with a critical inspection of the minting, general appearance, die impress ring, size and weight will be found accurate tests when in doubt as to whether a coin is genuine or spurious. The familiar acid test may also be applied.

"Counterfeit coins made in molds are the more common and the more easily detected. The mold counterfeit usually applies to sliver coins. A number of years ago there many counterfeits of silver coins made of lead and type metal, but these have largely passed because of their easy detection both as to sight and feeling, as they are slippery to the touch as compared with the real silver coin. The molding process is a cheap one to set up and is largely indulged in by foreigners, who pass their bad products upon their own countrymen when the latter are green as to genu-

"The sharp, clear cut appearance of the genuine coin is absent, the milling and lettering are dim, while the reading is usually

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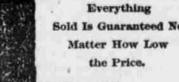
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faint and poorly delineated. Never theless, some pretty fair silver counterfeit coins are turned out of molds, but the weight is generally short when an attempt is made to bring them within the specified thickness and diameter. "That there is considerable counterfeiting

in coins still attempted is shown by the fact that our secret service officers captured \$6,000 in spurious gold coins and \$12,000 in silver coins during the last year. The more expert silver coin counterfeiters use for their product of the larger silver coins an alloy of about two-thirds antimony and one-third lead, and when they heavily plate these productions they get out a deceptive coin which has a pretty fair ring. The good old stand-by test of the required weight gives these coins away in the hands of one used to handling money, though in some sections of the country they get into circulation easily. The dollar piece makes the most dangerous of this class of counterfeits.

"Some of the molds are made of metal but most of them are made of plaster of paris. The \$5 and the \$10 gold pieces are the most favored by the counterfeiter, the 130 gold plece being very hard to reproduce so as to baffle detection, as the die of this coin is the most beautiful and the hardest to imitate of our gold coins. The predominating sliver pieces of counterfeit production are the 50 and 25-cent pieces and the standard silver dollar. The first two pieces of subsidiary coin are the most easily 'shoved.'

"Some counterfeiters give the gold coins an acid bath, or 'sweat' them out of a dollar or two of the good metal and then pass them along. The coins are genuine, of course, but the 'sweating' deprives them of the required weight. These 'sweated' coins pass in circulation from hand to hand until they reach the banks or the subtreasuries, when they are at once caught up by the coin counters, and their careers come to a sudden and abrupt close as coins of the realm

"A laborious task of extracting the in teriors of gold coins is called the 'filling process, consisting of cutting the coins in two, or partially through at the edges, and extracting as much of the interior as possible, replacing the good sold with an inferior but weighty metal and brazing the edges together, This job has to be done with exceeding cleverness to defy detection, but when done well a lot of gold can thus be obtained."

## Curious Chinese Medicines.

There are few places more interesting in Chinatown than the oriental laboratories and drug stores. Quaint and mysterious are some of the prescribed remedies, although many of them are composed of herbs and are excellent for some maladies. This fact is pretty generally recognized, for the average Chinese doctor who can speak nglish counts among his patients Americans as well as orientals. It is a well known fact that the late Leland Stanford planed his faith to Chinese herb treatment and was a regular and unashamed patron of Dr. Wong Woo, a prominent ase physician of San Francisco. In one of the large drug stores of New York there are over 5,000 different barks, roots and berries, all imported from China. me few of the herbs grow in this country. out they have not the strength of the plants. For instance, ginseng Chinese grown in Pennsylvania, from which state large quantities are exported, brings only 50 cents a pound, while Chinese ginseng sells for 23 and 14 a pound. A certain bark. which, upon being broken into pieces, discloses a silvery-colored silken fiber, is much used as a tonic; it is the bark of a tree called Toy-chung. Orange skin, betel nut, arice, sweet-tasting red berries, bamboo and all sorts of roots and herbs by Chinese doctors.-Loslio's Weekly.