World's Biggest Pawnshop in Mexico City

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MEXICO CITY, Mex.—The revolutionary troubles are crowding the national pawnshop and scores who have been ruined by the recent bombardment are "hocking" everything under the sun.

How would you like to borrow money of Uncle Sam at 1 per cent a month?

I do not mean big, long-time loans, but something like five, ten or fifty "plunks" to tide you over till next salary day. That is what you can do in Mexico City. The government here has a pawnshop in which you can "hock" your watch or wedding ring, or even an oil stove or a porcelain bathtub. It is known as the Monte de Piedad, or national pawnshop. The Spanish words mean a "mountain of piety," and this mountain of easily getable gold stands just opposite the cathedral and within a stone's throw of the national palace, on one of the corners of Cinco de Mayo street and the great plaza, right in the heart of the capital. It is a big, three-story building which looks like a prison. It has a cross on one corner of the roof, and the Mexican coat-of-arms over the portals. It covers almost a block and it is filled with everything pawnable under the Mexican sun. It has millions of dollars' worth of gold and silver stored away in its vaults, and in the sale cases today I saw a peck of gold ornaments and of precious stones, and also rings and bracelets galore.

In the Thieves' Market

In the National Pawnshop.

During my stay I went through the various rooms, seeing people of all ages, sexes and financial conditions borrowing money on articles of every description. I watched the selling and saw crowds looking over the stocks of various pledges to get bargains. In the loan rooms the people stood before long counters, above which were wire network like those of our banks, and in the great patio or square, around which the rooms of the building run, I saw them bring in automobiles, steel safes, baby cradles, parlor sets and pianos. I watched the opening of an upright piano. The owner was a pretty girl, dressed in black, with a mantilla over her head, and the tears stood in her eyes as she saw it unpacked. In another part of the patio were a man and his wife getting a loan on their parlor carpet, which still showed the dust of recent wear, and away off in one corner lay a half dozen bathtubs, which had been evidently taken from the houses and brought here as pledges. It may be they will be redeemed by Saturday night.

In going through the building I saw warehouse after warehouse filled with household goods of every conceivable kind. There were hundreds of porcelain and zinc bathtubs, chairs, stools and candlesticks and tables and beds without number. There were great shelves filled with clothing, and organs, talking machines and pianos by dozens. There were also kitchen and cooking utensils and things one would not be able to pawn in the states. The smallest sum loaned on any article is 6 cents of our money, and the loans run from that to $2,000. I am told that about 50,000 pieces are pawned every month, and something like $500,000 in loans is given out in that time. All but about 10 per cent are redeemed, the interest paid in monthly amounting to $20,000 and upward.

How Money is Loaned.

I watched the process of loaning. The moment a pledge is brought in an expert valuator fixes the price, and the loan is only a certain percentage of this. The price is low, for if the pledge is unclaimed and it cannot be sold the valuator has to take it himself, giving therefor the amount of the loan and the interest. As long as the interest is regularly paid all pledges are held, but after this they are offered for sale. In going through the courts, warehouses and salesrooms I found price tags on everything. These showed the original values and the loans, and in many cases the values had been reduced three or four times, and most things seemed to me wonderfully cheap. Indeed, the first price is about what the goods would bring in a second-hand store. This is held for a month, and then, if no one comes to buy it, is reduced. The next month it is further marked down, and this goes on from month to month until five months, when, if not sold, the valuator must take back the article.

I spent some time in the jewelry salesroom. Here were cases of pearls and diamonds, and quantities of rings, brooches and pins set with jewels of every description. I saw earrings with pearls as big as the end of your finger, and great sapphires and emeralds valued at from $500 to $4,000. Many of the jewels were in sets, consisting of bracelets, brooches and earrings, with now and then a tiara of diamonds to match. Most of these trinkets seemed to me very cheap. Just now Mexico is in the throes of hard times owing to the revolutionary troubles, and the sales of unredeemed pledges are large. Sometimes tourists pick up great bargains in jewelry. I know of one man who got a beautiful brooch containing a half dozen pearls and four diamonds for $100, and of another who bought a fine diamond ring for half that amount. I coveted a set of jewels whose price had been cut from $500 down to $300, but I thought of the customs, which are rigidly enforced on the borders of Texas, and I did not invest.

At the Pawnbroking Auctions.

I wish I could show you one of the auctions of this national pawnshop. They are attended by the motley throng which makes up the crowds of the Mexican capital. There are men in sombreros, short jackets and tight-fitting trousers. There are women in black, with mantillas over their heads, and there are people dressed much the same as those of our cities. At the auctions the pledges include chromos and oil paintings, bicycles and mirrors, saddles and harness, household goods and clothing and jewelry, and trinkets of every imaginable kind and description. The goods are put up at the request of the would-be purchasers and are often sold to the first bidders. The man picks out his article and it is knocked off after giving the others a chance. Everything has been appraised, and there is no false bidding. The great bargains in good things, however, are usually sold before the auctions take place.

In the Thieves' Market.

In addition to the national pawnshop there are many private pawnshops in Mexico City. At these the loans are more costly and 5 or 10 per cent a month is frequently paid. It is unsafe to attempt to borrow on stolen wares at the Monte de Piedad, but this is not so of the private pawnshops, and I am told that many of them are fences or receivers of stolen goods.

Indeed, there is one market here which has so much questionable merchandise that it goes by the name of the Thieves' market. It is not far from the cathedral and just off the main market house of the city. It is on a street once occupied by the palace of King Montezuma and where the first bull ring was afterward established by the Spaniards. On the same spot thirteen heretics were condemned to be burned to death by the inquisition in 1649, and it is only within a century or so that the land has been cleared and the property of the city.

In my walk through this market I kept my hands on my pocketbook, but I was not molested. I examined the goods, but there was nothing of value in the shape of curios or gold and silver set with jewels. The most of the wares seemed to be trinkets, household goods and old clothing. There was a great stock of the latter and as I looked at the silk dresses and men's suits of one kind or another I bethought me of the warning I had when I spent my first night in Mexico. My adviser was an old resident. Said he:

"In going to bed on the ground floor you must be careful to put your trousers under the mattress and lay your other clothes near the wall farthest away from the window, especially so if you keep your blinds open. This country has many sneak thieves and there are professionals who have jointed rods with a hook at the end, by which they can reach through the bars and drag out your clothing. You must also watch out for your pockets, and especially in crowds and on the street cars. It is not safe to leave your car window open while traveling on the railways and you want to keep track of your camera."

"The Revolution and Its Holdups."

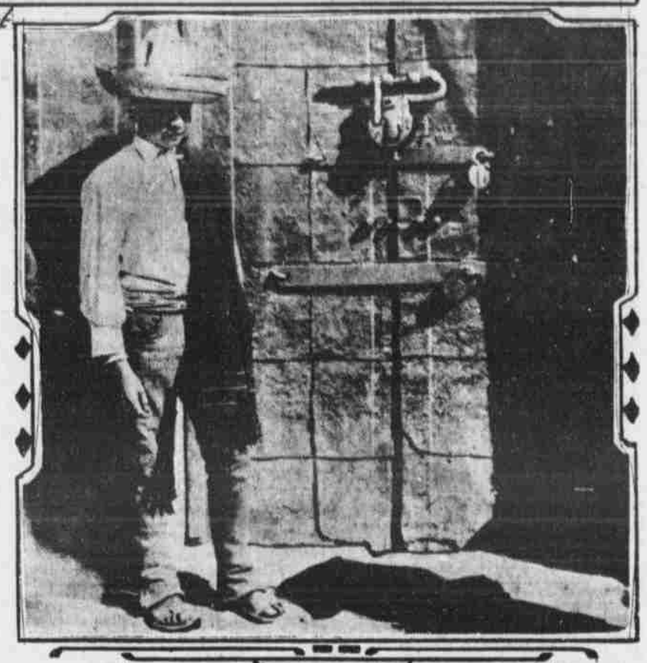
Since then I have found reason to appreciate these suggestions. A man traveling with me had his pocket picked two days after he entered Mexico, and this has scared him so that he now does not venture out without one hand in his trousers. I am told that the thieves steal wire cable and electric wiring. They cut through the roofs to get into the stores and warerooms and even try to rob the poor boxes of the churches. The railways lose thousands of bolts from the cars and tracks every year and they even take the fishplates from the rails. Nothing left out of doors unwatched is safe, and I am told that doormats are usually chained down. It is not safe to put an ash barrel out into the street and potted plants and flowers are sometimes stolen, while a vacant house frequently loses its lead pipe, electric globes and bath fixtures.

Just now in these revolutionary times much of the stealing is barefaced and open. There are parts of Mexico which swarm with brigands and banditti and where it is unsafe to travel even by rail or in automobiles. This is especially so outside the cities. Indeed, in a recent railroad ride which I took through a disturbed section I carried my surplus bills in my stocking. I had $150 in American money, consisting of a one-hundred-dollar bill, two twenties and a ten. I put these next my bare feet, with the idea that if my train were held up they would not be found. Fortunately, I got through all right, but the passengers on the same road two days later were robbed by a party of bandits, and lost all but their clothing. In the mountainous districts even one's clothing is liable to be taken, and there are recent instances where men have been stripped and left naked. So far Americans and other foreigners have been robbed only of their money, but such cases are frequent.

Banking and Money Matters.

Speaking of money matters, I find it best to travel in a country like this with a letter of credit. I have one issued by the Riggs National Bank of Washington on one of the leading banks of London, and with this I can get money in any of the cities. The place I patronize here is the National Bank of Mexico, an institution whose capital is more than $17,000,000, with deposits which compare with our largest United States banks. Its profits are something like $3,000,000 a year and it has branches in nearly every Mexican city.

Another big bank here is the Bank of London and Mexico, which was established by British capital at the close of our civil war and which is paying something like 12 per cent on its stock. And then there is the Mexican Bank of Commerce and Industry, backed by a capital of $5,000,000, some of which is held by the Deutsche Bank of Berlin, some by Speyers of New York and by business men here in the city, and also the Mexican Banking company, which has a capital of about $2,000,000.



Stores are Locked with Heavy Bolts

Nearly all the banks are owned by foreigners. The Banco National is largely backed by French capital, the branch Bank of Montreal by the Canadians, and there is also a Chinese financial organization, with a capital of $500,000 or so.

Altogether there are thirty-four chartered banks in Mexico City which are doing a business of several hundred million dollars a month. The total banking capital amounts to more than $100,000,000 in gold, and the dividends paid range all the way from 6 to 16 per cent. The stock of nearly every bank is far above par, and this is the same with the life insurance companies, title insurance companies and many other financial institutions. The country now is on a gold basis, the unit being the peso or Mexican dollar, which is worth just about 50 cents.

What Mexico Owes.

In addition to the ordinary banks there are mortgage banks similar to those existing in France, which extend credit to agricultural and mining enterprises. These, to a certain extent, are under the minister of finance, and they are intended to aid in the development of the country by loaning money to farmers and others. One of these banks is known as the Institution of Loans for Irrigation Works and the Encouragement of Agriculture. It was started with a capital of $10,000,000 and a bond issue of $50,000,000, guaranteed by the national government. A few weeks ago congress authorized the capital stock to be increased to over $200,000,000.

Mexico's Oldest Bank.

The oldest loaning institution in Mexico is the Monte de Piedad, of which I have written. It was founded before our declaration of independence was signed way back in 1775, with a capitalization of $300,000, its purpose being to free the poor people from the usurious rates of interest charged by private pawnbrokers. The founder was a rich mine owner, who had what then was the bonanza mine of Mexico. This was situated near Pachuca, and along about the time that we were fighting the revolutionary war it had already yielded $15,000,000. Its owner was noted for his extravagances.

He gave several warships to Spain and loaned the king $1,000,000. The same mine is still worked and it is now owned by Americans.

The Monte de Piedad is also a savings bank, and it came near failing in 1884 on account of its issue of demand liabilities based on long-term loans. It then held a cash reserve to $2,500,000 against a circulation of $4,000,000, but a panic came, a run was made and the institution was compelled to suspend. Outside aid was obtained, however, and the bank kept on its feet. Since then there has been a change in the Mexican banking laws, and I am told those now in force are excellent.

The country was put on a gold standard by Diaz about six years ago, and since then the peso has been worth practically 50 cents gold. Before that it ran up and down, fluctuating according to the amount of silver it contained. In 1901 it was worth 46 cents, in 1902 and 1903 only 41 cents, and in 1904 it was 45 cents and a fraction. It then ran up to 50 cents, which value it has held ever since.

There is no doubt about the sound financial condition of the Mexican government. In recent years it has been taking in more money in taxes than has been needed for the government expenses, and the public debt, considering the assets of the country, is comparatively small. It amounts to only a little over $200,000,000, or about one-fifth of what the United States owes. It is very small in comparison with the debts of Europe. France, for instance, is now owing almost $6,000,000,000, and the German empire and states owe about $4,000,000,000. Italy's debt is fast approximating $3,000,000,000, while that of the United Kingdom, including the colonies, is more than $4,000,000,000. Little Japan owes $1,300,000,000, while Switzerland, that little patch of mountains and valleys, owes considerable more than this republic of Mexico.

Hidden Treasure.

I am told that there is a great deal of hoarded money in Mexico. Up to the beginning of the present generation banking was comparatively unsafe and many of the people buried their money instead of depositing it. Even now there are millions upon millions under the court yards of the rich haciendados or hidden away in the walls.

Men die who are supposed to be worth nothing and thousands of dollars are found in their miserable homes. Not long ago an American brought suit to collect a debt of a man in one of the provincial cities. He got a judgment, but the defendant said: "I can't pay you, but my father will." The father was called on and he took the officials down into a cellar under his house where there was $400,000 stored away in 400 bags, each containing $1,000. The judgment was for $5,000 and five of the bags were handed over in payment therefor.

I understand that the church has a great deal of secreted money and that the hoards of the common people are just now beginning to come to the banks. The same is true in the Philippines, where our soldiers dug up silver in the court yards of the houses, and also in India, where hundreds of millions of dollars in the shape of gold coin and jewelry are buried in places in and under the walls of the homes of people supposedly poor.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

FAILS TO MEET THEIR HOPES

Men and Religion Movement Not Reflected in Last Year's Census.

The Men and Religion Movement, intended to increase church membership in this country, did not produce the results expected of it, according to figures issued by Dr. H. K. Carroll in the New York Christian Advocate yesterday. Dr. Carroll, who was government statistician in 1890 and who since then has published church statistics each year, found that the total increase for all churches for 1912 was 579,852, a decrease of 15,486 from the figures of 1911.

On behalf of the Men and Religion Movement it was said that the proposed increase of 300,000 Christians over the normal increase due to growth in population was not intended to be effected in a year, but was expected to be realized in five years. Dr. Carroll's figures put the total number of Christians in the United States at 36,875,637, divided as follows:

Roman Catholics	12,907,000
Methodists	5,995,000
Baptists	5,104,000
Lutherans	2,353,000
Presbyterians	1,981,000
Episcopalians	980,000
Reformed	459,000

Smaller bodies made up the balance. Dr. Carroll explained that he followed the government census rule in deducting 15 per cent fom Roman Catholic statistics, which were based on population, and included children not confirmed and therefore not communicants. He did this to equalize in some measure the differences between the Roman Catholic and Protestant methods of computing church membership. As the growth in population of the United States varied from 1,300,000 to 1,600,000 a year, an increase of church membership of less than 600,000 a year was not "taking America for Christ," a churchman pointed out yesterday.

Dr. Carroll's figures showed there were 41,419 Baptist ministers in this country in 1912 and that they added on an average three Christians each to the church for the year. There are many more Baptist churches than ministers, and the churches are credited with adding two and a half Christians each a year to the church roster. Methodists added the same number, while Presbyterians did little better. Each Presbyterian church got nearly three new members on the average.

The figures showed that the churches that were most orthodox were the only ones that were growing. The Unitarians were said to have stood still in membership, and to have lost last year six ministers and sixteen churches, while Universalists fell off 2,500 in members. Dr. Carroll conceded 85,000 members to Christian Science churches. They gained no new members last year, he asserted.

A striking feature of Dr. Carroll's report is the increase in the number of Greek Catholics in the United States. In 1890 he recorded 100 communicants of this faith. In 1912 he found 175,000 members of the Greek church in America. Orthodox Quakers are increasing in the Trinitarian branch of the faith.—New York Times.

PRATTLE OF THE YOUNGSTERS

Teacher—Elmer, you may define the word, "respect."

Little Elmer—It's the feeling one kid has for another what can lick him.

Grocer—What kind of tea do you want, little girl—black or green?

Little Girl—Oh, it doesn't matter. Papa and mamma are both color blind.

Big Sister—I do hope papa will take me to the concert. I'm so fond of music.

Small Brother—Then why don't you never let me play my drum in the house?

Father — Willie, why are you so naughty?

Willie—'Cause mamma gives me a nickel every time I promise to be good, an' she never asks me to be good 'less I'm naughty.

"Tommy," said the visitor, "I hear your father gave you a new watch for your birthday. Was it a hunting case watch?"

"No, ma'am," answered Tommy. "It was a bars faced watch."

Mother—Johnny, did you take your cough medicine regularly in school, as I told you?

Johnny—No'm; Tommy Dodd liked it an' he gimme an apple for it.

"I ate a worm," said a little tot in the kindergarten.

The teacher, thinking that perhaps the child had really done such a thing, protested warmly over the undesirability of the proceeding. "Why, just think," she said, as a final argument, "how badly the mamma worm felt to have her little baby eaten up."

"I ate she's mamma, too," was the triumphant rejoinder that proved too much for the teacher.

It Didn't Apply.

Two East Cleveland men were talking.

"A miserable son of a thief last night broke into a house out our way," said one, "and took a lot of spoons and trinkets and a little money and got away. I wish the owner had heard him—he'd have shot the scoundrelly head off the ruffian!"

"Hold on, hold on," said the other man, "that's no way to talk. You don't know how the poor fellow, weak and misguided, was tempted. And, after all, he's our brother."

"That silly snivel doesn't apply in this case," growled the first man. "It was my house that was robbed!"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Woman's Beauty is Based on Health

To Have Health, Bowel Movement is Absolutely Necessary—How Best to Obtain it

If woman's beauty depended upon cosmetics every woman would be a picture of loveliness. But beauty lies deeper than that. It lies in health. In the majority of cases the basis of health, and the cause of sickness, can be traced to the action of the bowels.

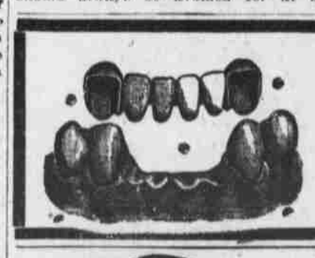
The headaches, the lassitude, the sallow skin and the lusterless eyes are usually due to constipation. So many things that women do habitually conduce to this trouble. They do not eat carefully, they eat indigestible foods because the foods are served daintily and they do not exercise enough. But whatever the particular cause may be it is important that the condition should be corrected.

An ideal remedy for women, and one especially suited to their delicate requirements, is Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin, which thousands of women endorse highly. Mrs. Jennie Snedeker, 1641 West Monroe St., Chicago, testifies that she is "cured of grave stomach and bowel troubles by using Syrup Pepsin and without the aid of a doctor or any other medicine." All the family can use Syrup Pepsin, for thousands of mothers give it to babies and children. It is also admirably suited to the requirements of elderly people, in fact to all who by reason of age or infirmity cannot stand harsh salts, cathartics, pills or purgatives. These should always be avoided for at best their effect is only for that day, while a genuine remedy like Syrup Pepsin acts mildly but permanently.

MRS. JENNIE SNEDEKER

It can be conveniently obtained at any drug store at fifty cents or one dollar a bottle. Results are always guaranteed or money will be refunded. You will find it gentle in action, pleasant in taste, and free from griping, and its tonic properties have a distinct value to women. It is the most widely used laxative-tonic in America today and thousands of families are now never without it.

If no member of your family has ever used Syrup Pepsin and you would like to make a personal trial of it before buying it in the regular way of a druggist, send your address—a postal will do—to Dr. W. B. Caldwell, 417 Washington St., Monticello, Ill., and a free sample bottle will be mailed you.



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THE DENTISTS
Successors to Bailey & Mach
The largest and best equipped dental office in Omaha. Experts in charge of all work, moderate prices. Porcelain fillings just like the tooth. All instruments sterilized after using.
3d Floor Paxton Block, Omaha, Neb.

We've Moved
Across the Street

We are now nicely settled in very much larger quarters directly across the street from our old location. Find us now at 1405 Douglas St., in the former storeroom of THE PEOPLE'S CREDIT CLOTHING CO. Now being possessed of THREE ENTIRE floors, we are in a position to greatly increase our RETAIL, WHOLESALE and MANUFACTURING facilities, and we look forward with pleasure to an early visit from you. We want to SHOW you the strides we've made, and why we should secure the larger portion of your cigar trade.

Half Off---The Pipe Chance of Years!

While shaping things around at this newer location, we will offer a HALF OFF on any Case Pipe, etc., in the house. And we will offer the same HALF OFF on any Humidor, Cigar and Tobacco Jar, etc., and on numerous other Smokers' Novelties.

PIPE REPAIR DEPARTMENT ENLARGED. We are operating the most perfectly equipped Pipe Repair Department in the West. Anything that can be repaired on a pipe can be repaired here. In fact, our slogan is: "Bring Us the Pieces and We Will Fix the Pipe."

SEE US AT OUR NEW ESTABLISHMENT

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THE CIGAR PEOPLE

Makers of Banker's Union, 5c and Gen. Stanton 10c Cigars—UNION MADE

NOW AT 1405 DOUGLAS ST.

For The Nervous Woman,

Or the woman who experiences hot flashes nothing is so good to soothe, quiet and calm the nervous system as a pure glyceric extract of native medical plants, and made without alcohol, which has been sold by druggists for the past forty years, and most favorably known as Doctor Pierce's Favorite Prescription. In younger years some women suffer from dizziness, or fainting spells, hysteria, headache, bearing-down feelings and pain. All these symptoms of irregularity and female disturbance are relieved by the use of this famous "Prescription" of Doctor Pierce.

As a powerful, invigorating tonic "Favorite Prescription" imparts strength to the whole system, and in particular to the organs distinctly feminine. For over-worked, "worn-out," "run-down," debilitated teachers, milliners, dressmakers, seamstresses, "shop-girls," house-keepers, nursing mothers, and feeble women generally, it is an excellent appetizing cordial and restorative tonic.

MRS. L. McDONALD

"My disease was called retroversion," writes MRS. LYDIA McDONALD, of Mecosta, Mich., Route 1. "I had nervous chills and numb spells and they would leave me very weak. Then I had inflammation and the doctor said I had a floating kidney. I doctored seven months with our family physician. He said I would have to have an operation. Then I stopped taking his medicine. After taking three bottles of Dr. Pierce's medicines I have not had any nervous chills or weak spells. I am better than for years.

"My daughter is now taking the 'Prescription' and Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, also the 'Pellets' for nervousness and wearied feeling. These remedies have helped her ever so much in a short time. We have great faith in your medicines for female troubles."

Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets induce mild natural bowel movement

The Doctor's Advice
by Dr. Lewis Baker

The questions answered below are general in character, the symptoms or diseases are given and the answers will apply to any case of similar nature.

Those wishing further advice free, may address Dr. Lewis Baker, College Bldg., College-Elwood Sts., Dayton, O., enclosing self-addressed stamped envelope for reply. Full name and address must be given, but only initials or fictitious name will be used in my answers. The prescriptions can be filled at any well stocked drug store. Any druggist can order of wholesaler.

"Elizabeth" writes: "Kindly publish again the prescription for stomach disorders and constipation. I have misplaced the letter giving the ingredients."

Answer: Go to your druggist and ask for tablets triopepsine and take according to directions, and you will soon be entirely cured of all stomach trouble and constipation. This is the best treatment known for all kinds of stomach trouble.

* * *

"Anna" says: "I am nervous, hysterical and very thin due to overwork. What can I take to regain my original vitality?"

Answer: You will gradually regain your original strength by using syrup of hypophosphites comp. 8 ozs.; tincture cadomene comp. 1 oz. Mix and take a teaspoonful before meals. This is the best system tonic that I know of.

* * *

"Mrs. P. H." asks: "I am troubled with a large goitre and am very fleshy; so much so that I am uncomfortable. What do you advise me to do?"

Answer: Five-grain arbolene tablets should be taken regularly. If this is done your goitre and abnormal fat will gradually be reduced. These tablets are sold in sealed tubes, with full directions for home use.

* * *

"Edna T." writes: "I wish you would recommend a remedy for kidney and liver trouble. I have dark spots before my eyes, dizzy spells and also twinges of rheumatism."

Answer: I have received many letters from people who have used the following remedy and been cured of all trouble such as you mention. Get three grain sulphera tablets (not sulphur tablets), and take according to directions given. They are sold at any well stocked drug store and are thoroughly reliable.

* * *

"Louise"—Get the following prescription filled and give 10 to 15 drops in water before meals to cure your little boy of bed-wetting. Comp. fluid balmwort, 1 oz.; tincture rhusaromatic, 2 drams, and tincture cubebs, 1 dram. This should be given one hour before meals.

* * *

"Helen" writes: "My nostrils and throat are badly affected with catarrh and my breath is very offensive. I also suffer a great deal with headache and pain in my eyes. Can anything be done to help me?"

Answer: Antiseptic Vilane powder has been prescribed with great success and the number of letters received daily from the hundreds of grateful people who have been cured of catarrh would indicate its curative value. Get from the druggist a two ounce original package of Vilane powder, mix a level teaspoonful with an ounce of vaseline or lard and apply well up in the nostrils twice a day. Also use the following in connection with the above to thoroughly cleanse the nostrils: Use one-half teaspoonful of the Vilane powder to a pint of warm water, snuff the water through the nostrils several times a day and your catarrh should soon be cured. To prevent a return this should be used occasionally.

* * *

"Tom M." writes: "I am only twenty years old, but my hair is falling out very rapidly. My scalp is covered with dandruff. What can I get to cure it?"

Answer: To cure dandruff and stop falling hair use plain yellow minyol. This you can get at any well stocked drug store in 4 oz. jars, and if used regularly it will cure any scalp disease and prevent premature baldness. Many people have reported a cure by using two or three applications.

* * *

"J. W." writes: "I should be the happiest woman in the world if I could find a true remedy to help me gain flesh. I have regular features, but I am so thin that I am homely. Can you give me a prescription?"

Answer: I receive daily so many gratifying letters from users of three grain hypo-nuclane tablets. These little tablets can be bought at any up-to-date drug store in sealed packages. Full directions are given. I advise that you begin taking them at once and continue their use for several months and you will gain flesh. Many people report that a two months' treatment will increase their weight from 15 to 30 pounds. Hypo-Nuclane tablets will also improve your complexion, giving you rosy cheeks and lips and an increased sparkle to the eyes.

* * *

"American Girl" writes: "For some years I have been troubled with rheumatism. I have tried almost every 'cure,' but they did not help me."

Answer: The best known prescription for the cure of rheumatism is: Iodide of potassium, 3 drams; sodium salicylate, 4 drams; wine of colchicum, ½ oz.; comp. essence cardiol, 1 oz.; comp. fluid balmwort, 1 oz.; and syrup sarsaparilla, 3 ozs. Mix by shaking well in a bottle and take a teaspoonful at meal time and at bed time, and you will not only be relieved, but cured, if you continue its use for a short time.

* * *

"Frank S." writes: "I would like to have the formula for a reliable cough cure as I have a very severe cough which is becoming very annoying."

Answer: The best remedy that I know of for coughs and colds is made by mixing a 2½ oz. bottle of concentrated essence mentho-laxene with a home made sugar syrup. You will find full directions on the bottle how to make and use. This will make a full pint of the finest and cheapest cough medicine obtainable.