"R" on a Prescription Was Once a

Prayer to Jupiter. Reminders of a time when mortals were supposed to have close inercourse with the gods come up now and then, and often in the most unexpected places. For example, there are some 5,000 persons in Chicago who daily write invocations to Jupiter, or Zeus. Many times this number give of their substance for these talismanic ciphers, hoping thereby to be rid of some bodily ill. Now; the curious part of this latter day pagan worship is that those who make the sign of high Olympus' king have little if any thought of what they are doing, and those who so eagerly seek the "parchments" never suspect they are taking part in a medico-religious rite of the middle ages. In short, the "priests of Jupiter" are physicians and druggists, the supplicants their patients or customers and the parchments ordinary prescriptions.

In the left hand upper corner of every physician's prescription or druggist's recipe may be found a letter "R," having a line drawn obliquely across its tail.

Not one person in ten who writes a prescription takes the trouble to recall the significance of that little stroke across the "R," and not one in a thousand who carries a prescription to the dispenser knows anything at all as to the meaning of the symbol. Physicians and druggists' textbooks tell us it stands for "recipe" and means "take of the following."

Many of those who write and dispense prescriptions will pause in their busy moments long enough to say it is a mere arbitrary sign and means little, if anything, but the student of ancient things finds in that well known symbol a relic of dren. the days when prescriptions had to be blessed of the gods to be effective and will tell us it originally meant "May Jupiter, or Zeus (or some other god who happened to be not overbusy at the time), bless this preecription and bring the patient

Archæologists, while agreeing as to the antiquity of this medical symbol or talisman, differ somewhat as to its exact original meaning. The oldest form of the letter appears p have been a figure like the Ength letter "E," with the lower horinontal part crossed with a scepter shape line. This or some modification of it has been from time immemorial the symbol of the planet Jupiter, and this is given as the reason for placing it at the head of prescriptions, for the great planet, bearer of the name of the father of life, was believed in olden days to have a peculiar and powerful influence over diseases. This symbol has also been generally described as simply the initial letter for Zeus, the Greek name for Jupiter, but this only accounts for part of it, as it makes no provision for the scep terlike stroke, an object which, accompanied or intwined by a serpent, was prominent in representations of Jupiter. Still others have figured It as being made up of the initial and terminal letters of Zadakiel, the angel and spirit of the great planet. Some, taking it to be a combination of "R" and "I," have held that it might be derived from the name of Raphael, angel of the sun, while one, Taylor, says, "This ideogram resolves itself into an arm, grasping a thunderbolt," which is only another way of ascribing it to Jupiter.

The bulk of testimony, therefore, seems to strengthen the first position that the symbol is a fragmentary and obsolete medical talisman, once potent with the unseen powers, but now meaning to the average person little more than \$2, an ill tasting mixture and perhaps improved health.-Chicago Post.

On an average an Englishman is 14 pounds heavier than a French-

few. All effort should be made genuineness of this offer. to smooth these rugged places in life's pathway for her, ere she presses to her bosom her babe. WILLIS H. ROGERS

allays Nervousness, and so assists Nature that the change goes forward in an easy manner, without such violent protest in the way of Nausea, Headache, Etc. Gloomy forebodings yield to cheerful and hopeful anticipations—she passes through the ordeal quickly and without pain-is left strong and vigorous and enabled to joyously perform the high and holy duties now devolved upon her. Safety to life of both is assured by the use of "Mother's Friend," and the time of recovery shortened.

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Little old women in plenty I find, Mature of manners and old of mind. Little old flirts, who talk of their "beans" And vie with each other in stylish clothes.

"There are no little girls nowadays," remarked a woman, speaking of a party she had attended, where children of 8 and 10 years had danced and supped, perfect little counterparts of their elders.

"It is enough to make one's heart ache to listen to these 'little old is full of impurities which should women, "was the response. "They be eliminated. In addition to are blase at 10, and heaven pity them at 16! They will have sucked their orange so dry that life will be a juiceless husk. It is an ordinary avoid loss of appetite and a genoccurrence for these small slips to eral run-down feeling in the have their own matinee parties, and the subsequent discussion of vaudeville places some older women as learners at their feet. To be sure, these tots have a chaperon, but the next older set of girls buy their own matinee tickets and chaperon themselves. Won't our girls begin to think-us strict if we deny them a like privilege, and will they soon announce that papa is not needed as an escort, 'for all the other girls have boys go home with them?' How do you suppose they amuse is far ahead of all other remedies themselvesi

you are a young lady. I will be a gentleman calling upon you,' said Lillian the other afternoon, and for two hours those 8-year-olds exchanged society commonplaces and bonmots with the poise and expression of genuine society women,

city to another in order to place her S. S. S. and be well all summer. children in a school where something was talked about besides the number of diamonds each respective mother possessed or the latest thing in gowns. She said that when Maud announced that unless a new gown was forthcoming she could not play in the next musical she felt the poison had begun to work, and her only safety lay in flight."

The friend exclaimed in reply: "What a parody the whole thing is! The few natural children one occasionally stumbles upon are actually pitied by their mates because they have 'no fun.' Truly it is enough to make an angel weep, for these little abnormal specimens are children of well to do, well bred American parents and are simply victims of the forcing process so typical of our age. While you pity them think of the possible children they may mother and pray that it may soon become the 'fad' for children to be wholesome and old fashioned."-New York Tribune.

Human deeds and human lives are never understood until they are finished. You can no more tell in advance how manhood will turn out than how a young child will grow

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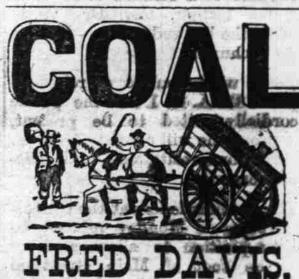
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