

## MEDICINE PRICES BEYOND REACH OF POOR— SPECULATORS CORNER DRUGS

New York, Oct. 28.—“Let the babies die—we must have profit!”

That is the pleasant and humanizing battle cry that has been raised by America's speculators in medicine—the men who are cornering the drug supply of the nation and blaming high prices on the European war!

They are buying up all the medicines available and holding them for higher prices—for the time when the rich feel the need of them and only the rich can buy.

Quinine costs five times as much today as it did a month ago—and there are 160,000 ounces of quinine in New York—a year's supply.

The quinine gamblers have made half a million—have increased the price tenfold since the war started—and predict \$5 quinine before another year!

The leaves from which camomile tea is made have jumped 35 cents a pound, horehound has more than doubled in price, as have also the crude oils from which cod liver oil is made.

Carbolic acid, which was 38 cents one year ago, costs \$1.70 today and bromides have leaped in the same period from 67 cents to \$3.25.

Peroxide of hydrogen was less than \$17 per gross of pound bottles on September 1. Today the price is \$21. Manna, an Italian product, has jumped in a little more than a month from 80 cents a pound to \$1.05, and glycerine, which sold for 25 cents a pound last month, is now hovering around 60 cents.

Not ALL the higher prices are due to speculation. The war started it—and the war gave the speculators the hunch on how they could make millions.

Europe produces normally 75 per cent of the medicines used in America. The British blockade of Germany has stopped many of these

shipments. But Europe's production has been greatly curtailed, and Europe's demand has been greatly increased. Some drugs have even been sought by Europeans in America, according to P. E. Anderson, head of one of the biggest drug importing firms.

Utold suffering already has been inflicted on scores of families in this and every other American city's tenements. Physicians predict that unless the drug famine is broken hundreds of mothers and babies will be doomed to death.

One hope lies in the chance that American government scientists, now working on the problem in Washington, can find a way of supplying these drugs that the speculators cannot corner!

### —O—O— NEW MOVE TO INDUCE BUYING OF CITY BONDS

Another inducement is offered to small investors to purchase city bonds by Comptroller Eugene Pike.

Yesterday the mayor signed an ordinance planned and fostered by Pike which will permit bonds of small denomination to be cashed by the city treasurer whenever the bondholders want their money back.

This is a feature which few other cities have and is expected to double the sale of bonds of small denomination to the citizens.

“We are prepared to cash bonds in amounts up to \$1,000,” said Pike today. “Suppose a moderately fixed family is visited by sickness or some other misfortune. They now can afford to purchase these bonds because they can turn them in for cash whenever they wish. We pay 5 per cent interest so it will be a profitable move for them to purchase an interest in their city.”

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Charity that seeks the limelight is mere investment in advertising.