



ESTABLISHED 1859.

Subscription: Fourpence a Week, Ten Shillings a Year.
Summer and Winter Numbers, 1/- per Copy

Prix de l'abonnement: The Chemist and Druggist une fois par semaine, et l'agenda du Chemist and Druggist une fois par an, 12.50 francs par an, franco.

Abonnementspreis: The Chemist and Druggist einmal wöchentlich, und Notizkalender des Chemist and Druggist einmal im Jahre, 10 Mark jährlich, frei in's Haus geliefert.

Precio de suscripcion: The Chemist and Druggist una vez por semana, y el Agenda del Chemist and Druggist una vez al año 12.50 pesetas anuales franco.

Remittances Payable to EDWARD HALSE.

Postal Orders and Cheques to be crossed "MARTIN'S BANK (LIMITED)."

CHIEF OFFICES: 42 CANNON STREET, LONDON, E.C.

BRANCH OFFICES: MELBOURNE AND SYDNEY.

THIS JOURNAL is regularly supplied by subscription to the whole of the Members of TWELVE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETIES in the British Empire.

CONTENTS: Vol. LIII. No. 3.

PAGE	PAGE
Australasian News..... 76	Miscellaneous Inquiries..... 99
Bankruptcies and Failures..... 86	New Books..... 74
British Chemical Trade..... 101	New Companies and Company News..... 97
Business Changes..... 85	Personalities..... 87
Chemists' Ass'n tauts' Union..... 82	Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain:—
Coming Events..... 100	Edinburgh Examinations .. 79
Commercial Notes..... 101	"First" Examination-paper .. 79
Correspondence..... 98	Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland:—
Deaths..... 92	Council Meeting..... 80
Needs of Arrangement..... 87	Poisonous Substances Bill .. 93
Editorial Comments:—	Scotch News..... 75
High Times for Pharmacy .. 83	Society of Chemical Industry.. 83
Pharmacopœia Matters..... 89	South African News..... 77
Chemists and the Spectacle-trade..... 89	Students' Corner..... 72
Notes..... 90	The War and the American Drug-trade..... 73
English News..... 73	Trade-marks Applied for..... 73
French News..... 76	Trade Notes..... 87
French Tariff Changes..... 102	Trade Report..... 102
Gazette..... 87	Westminster Wisdom..... 91
Information Wanted..... 100	Wills of Deceased Chemists.... 77
Irish News..... 75	
Legal Reports..... 86	
Marriages..... 92	

Our Summer Number.

FIRMS who have not arranged for an inset in the Summer Number of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST (July 30) should endeavour to have a well-displayed advertisement in the number. It is one of the best chances available to manufacturers and wholesalers for indicating to the trade in general or specific terms what novelties may be expected for autumn and winter trade; and we would particularly emphasise the desirability of advertisers making a feature of prices and illustrations of goods, if that can be done. We may also remind our advertisers that the circulation of the number will be 12,000; the distribution will be confined to buyers of druggists' goods at home and abroad. We have a representative in Canada at present whose duty it is to foster business relations between the Dominion and the Mother Country; in South Africa, thanks to the unanimous support of pharmaceutical societies there, we are strong; in Australia our circulation is so important that we have a permanent staff resident there to maintain it; and we believe that there is not a European druggist of repute in India who does not get THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST. Our influence at home is a matter of common knowledge. We mention these facts so that advertisers may feel justification for concentrating their efforts on our issue of July 30. The Publisher will be pleased to hear from them.

Summary.

THE CHEMISTS' ASSISTANTS' UNION have held another meeting (p. 82).

BRUNNER, MOND & Co. (LIMITED) have celebrated their silver anniversary (p. 73).

A HAMMERSMITH CHEMIST has been talked to by a Coroner for prescribing (p. 73).

CHANGES IN THE FRENCH TARIFF which interest the drug-trade are noted on p. 102.

A REPORT on our last analytical competition, with many hints to students, appears on p. 72.

THE DEATH of Mr. David A. Gibbs, the head of the well-known soap-firm, is reported on p. 87.

THE IRISH PHARMACEUTICAL COUNCIL resolved to oppose the Poisonous Substances Bill (p. 81).

A PENNY POST between the United Kingdom and Canada and South Africa is to be established (p. 73).

A WOMAN has died through taking diachylon pills for the purpose of inducing premature labour (p. 73).

THE GOVERNMENT have abandoned the Poisonous Substances Bill (p. 93). Various denunciations of the measure are printed.

THE PETROLEUM COMMITTEE'S report has been presented to the House of Commons. We give the main recommendations on p. 91.

FURTHER particulars of the Cape Pharmacy Bill, which proposes, amongst other things, to prevent chemists prescribing, are given on p. 77.

MR. GLYN-JONES thinks some means should be adopted by chemists to ensure united action in test-cases under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act (p. 97).

THE BRITISH TRADE RETURNS for June show slight improvements, and the same applies to the first half of the year, but the alkali exports are rattling down (p. 101).

A DRUG COMPANIES' ASSOCIATION, to protect the interests of stores and companies carrying on business as chemists and druggists, has been registered as a limited company (p. 97).

THE RECENT MOVEMENTS for qualification in the spectacle-trade are described on p. 89, where the need for chemists being represented on the Spectacle Makers' Company's Committee is also stated.

THE PHARMACEUTICAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION QUESTIONS, and the names of those who have passed the Major and Minor examinations in Edinburgh this month are printed on p. 79.

PORTRAITS appear in this issue of Lord Herschell (p. 96), the Earl of Hardwicke (p. 91), the late Mr. D. Gibbs (p. 87), Professor Clowes (p. 85), and Mr. W. H. Perkin, F.R.C. (p. 85).

THE MARKETS are dull. Beeswax, camphor, castor oil, and phenazone are easier or cheaper, saffron and salicylic acid are dearer, and citric and tartaric acids and opium are amongst the firmer articles (p. 102).

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Society of Chemical Industry was held in Nottingham this week, under the presidency of Professor Clowes, who presented Dr. W. H. Perkin with the Society's medal (p. 83).

QUESTIONS have been asked in Parliament concerning licences to English firms to work German chemical patents in this country; the refusal of the Irish police to institute a prosecution under the Sale of Poisons Act; and as to perforated medicine-stamps (pp. 91-92).

THE PHARMACY BILL was reported to the House of Lords by the Standing Committee on Tuesday, whereupon the Lord Chancellor and Lord Herschell pointed to the evasion of the Pharmacy Act by companies; and the Earl of Hardwicke, who has charge of the Bill, promised to deal with the matter in a new clause (p. 96 and p. 88).

Students' Corner.

CONDUCTED BY RICHARD J. MOSS, F.C.S., F.I.O.

QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS.

THE subject of the next exercise in qualitative analysis will be a mixture of not more than three salts. The mixture is to be submitted to a thorough systematic examination, all its constituents are to be detected, and proof is to be given that the substances detected are the only constituents of the mixture.

Students' applications for portions of the mixture of salts (accompanied by a stamped and addressed envelope, not a stamp merely) will be received up to Wednesday, July 20, and the samples will be forwarded immediately.

Students' reports will be received up to Saturday, July 30. Each report should contain a concise account of the work done, and should include a list of the constituents detected. In this list any substance regarded as an accidental impurity should be distinguished from the essential constituents of the salts composing the mixture.

REPORTS.

The mixture of salts distributed for analysis last month contained 3 parts of zinc sulphate, 1 part of copper sulphate, and 1 part of manganese sulphate.

Its calculated composition was:—

Cu	5.08
Zn	13.59
Mn	4.56
SO ₄	75.74
H ₂ O	41.03
	100.00

Traces of iron, calcium, and chlorine were present as impurities.

Packets of the powder were issued to forty correspondents, and reports of analyses were received from twenty-one students. All our correspondents succeeded in detecting copper and sulphuric acid, three failed to detect zinc, and five were unsuccessful in the detection of manganese. The analysis of a somewhat similar mixture of salts five years ago showed an almost identical proportion of failures in the detection of manganese and zinc.

Manganese ought always to be sought for in the preliminary examination of a solid. The production of green sodium manganate on fusing any manganese compound with sodium carbonate and an oxidising-agent, such as potassium nitrate, is one of the most sensitive of blowpipe-reactions, and it is not easy to mistake its indications. The chief difficulty is likely to arise from the very sensitiveness of the test. Owing to the great tinctorial power of sodium manganate, it is possible that the mass after fusion may be so intensely coloured as to appear almost black. This difficulty is increased when, as in the present case, the solid under examination contains a salt such as copper sulphate, which assumes a dark colour on heating. When a very darkly-coloured mass is produced in applying this test for manganese it is only necessary to add a large excess—say, ten times the quantity—of sodium carbonate, and repeat the fusion, when the green colour will become apparent if manganese is a constituent of the substance under examination.

Several students, notably those who failed to detect manganese, reported magnesium present. This error arose from the incomplete precipitation of manganese as sulphide. There was so much zinc and manganese in the mixture that a large quantity of ammonium sulphide was required to precipitate them completely. Even when the

reagent is added in decided excess the precipitation of manganese is not at once complete. Fresenius, referring to the precipitation of manganese as sulphide, says that in all cases the solution should be allowed to stand twenty-four hours, and very dilute solutions forty-eight hours, before filtering.

Manganese forms a phosphate similar in composition to ammonio-magnesium phosphate. The manganese salt is far less soluble in water than the corresponding magnesium compound, so that sodium phosphate in the presence of ammonia and ammonium chloride forms a more delicate test for manganese than it does for magnesium. Any manganese in the solution that was tested in the usual way for magnesium would cause the production of a white granular precipitate, which might be mistaken for ammonio-magnesium phosphate. The latter precipitate is, however, so distinctly crystalline, especially when it separates slowly from a dilute solution, that no other phosphate ought to be mistaken for it.

PRIZES.

The First Prize for the best analysis has been awarded to
T. H. H. FRANCIS, c/o Mr. Rossiter, pharmaceutical chemist, 9 Grand Parade, St. Leonards-on-Sea.

The Second Prize has been awarded to
C. J. PACKHAM, 16 Katherine Street, Croydon.

MARKS AWARDED FOR ANALYSES.

T. H. H. Francis (first prize)	100	Saccharum	90
C. J. Packham	97	Huxham	90
A. E. King	96	Nitroxyl	85
Algol	95	Urotropin	65
Hydrargyrum	94	Vectis	62
Aberthaw	93	R. T. S.	60
Dover	92	Garçon	58
Karlachan	92	J. C. Christie	55
Oxon	91	C. Manfull	55
J. Burns	90	A. E. Beeston	50
		D. M. P.	50

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Prizes.—The students to whom prizes are awarded are requested to write at once to the Publisher, naming the book they select, and stating how they wish it forwarded.

Any scientific book that is published at a price not greatly exceeding half a guinea may be taken as a first prize.

Any scientific book which is sold for about five shillings may be taken as a second prize.

Note.—All communications should include the names and addresses of the writers.

HYDRARGYRUM.—Calcium was not present in sufficient quantity to produce a precipitate when ammonium carbonate was added to the filtrate from ammonium sulphide. It was only on adding ammonium oxalate that the calcium could be detected.

NITROXYL.—The precipitate you obtained with sodium phosphate was due to manganese. Zinc and manganese salts constituted four-fifths of the mixture, so that a good deal of ammonium sulphide was required to precipitate these two metals completely. An insufficiency of the reagent would leave manganese in solution, and, in the ordinary course of analysis, it would appear as phosphate in the form of a white granular precipitate.

UROTROPIN.—The presence of iron or manganese affects the solubility of zinc hydroxide in the fixed alkalis. Unless the alkaline precipitant is present in a somewhat concentrated form it may fail to redissolve zinc hydroxide. This was probably the fate of the greater part of the zinc hydroxide you tried to separate from manganese by means of sodium hydroxide.

VECTIS.—The precipitate you obtained with calcium chloride consisted of calcium sulphate. The oxalate is easily distinguished from the sulphate by igniting it, when it is converted, with very slight carbonisation, into carbonate, a salt that is at once recognised by its effervescing with an acid. The sulphate is not decomposed by ignition.

R. T. S.—In testing for manganese by fusing some of the mixture of salts with sodium carbonate you probably used far too little of the latter, so that the sodium manganate was not diluted sufficiently to admit of its green colour being seen. In too con-

centrated a form it appears nearly black. The precipitate you obtained with ammonium carbonate must have been due to zinc or manganese, the latter most likely if ammonium hydroxide were present in decided excess.

GARÇON.—You omitted a very important part of the analysis—the examination of the powder by the dry method. When a minute portion of the powder was fused with sodium carbonate and a little potassium nitrate, a mass was produced coloured green from the presence of sodium manganate. This is the most delicate reaction for manganese. It was important that the manganese should have been detected in this way, because it was easily overlooked in the ordinary course of wet analysis.

J. C. CHRISTIE.—See remarks to "Garçon." The doubt you seemed to entertain about the presence of mercury was well founded. There is no difficulty in reducing mercury salts by heating them with sodium carbonate in a tube closed at one end. For this purpose perfectly anhydrous sodium carbonate should be used, the mercury compound should also be quite dry, and both should be mixed together as intimately as possible.

C. MANFULL.—The sulphur dioxide evolved when the powder was heated was a product of the decomposition of a sulphate. Cupric sulphate, one of the constituents of the mixture, is resolved by heat into sulphurous anhydride, free oxygen, and black cupric oxide.

ARTHUR E. BURTON.—The precipitate you obtained with calcium chloride and silver nitrate were sulphates, not tartrates. When sulphates are present in quantity it is necessary to guard against the possibility of mistaking deficiently soluble sulphates for the more insoluble salts of organic acids. Calcium sulphate requires about 400 parts of water, and silver sulphate about 200 parts, to dissolve it at ordinary temperatures, so that precipitates of these salts may readily be obtained.

M. D. P.—When the powder was warmed with dilute sulphuric acid there was no smell of acetic acid, and the vapour evolved did not redden litmus. You were wrong, too, in supposing that ferric chloride gave a red colour with a carefully-neutralised sodium-carbonate solution containing the acid radicles. Your test for acetic acid depending upon the production of ethyl acetate would not have detected a small quantity of acetate; the mixture must be warmed. The fruity odour you observed was due to alcohol alone.

English News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

Penny Postage for the Colonies.

The Postmaster-General announces that, as the result of the Imperial Conference on Postal Rates, it has been agreed, on the proposal of the representative of the Dominion of Canada, that letter-postage of 1*d.* per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. should be established between the United Kingdom, Canada, Newfoundland, the Cape Colony, Natal, and such of the Crown Colonies as may, after communication with and approval of her Majesty's Government, be willing to adopt it. The date on which the reduction will come into effect will be announced later on. The question of a uniform reduced rate for the whole Empire was carefully considered, but it was not found possible to fix upon a rate acceptable to all the Governments concerned. A resolution was, therefore, adopted leaving it to those parts of the Empire which were prepared for penny postage to make the necessary arrangements among themselves. It is expected that India will be included in this arrangement. The Australasian colonies at present stand aloof, but it is probable that they will soon yield to the force of example.

Brunner, Mond & Co.'s Semi-jubilee.

The celebration of the silver anniversary of the establishment of this well-known chemical firm was commenced at Northwich on the evening of July 8, when a dinner was given in the Central Theatre to the heads of departments, foremen, &c., numbering over 200 persons. On the following day 10,000 of Messrs. Brunner, Mond & Co.'s workmen, with their wives and families, were entertained in Winnington Park. Sir John Brunner and Dr. Mond cut the sods for the site of a new pavilion and club-house, which they are presenting to their employés as a recreation club, and 2,500 children were the recipients of presentation-mugs, bearing

Sir John Brunner's and Dr. Mond's portraits. Every member of each family was provided with tickets for tea, refreshments, sports, and variety entertainments, and music was supplied by two bands. Novel races were organised for old and young, and it is recorded as the biggest *fête* ever held in Mid-Cheshire.

Mothers' Medicines.

An inquest was held at Horbury on Monday relative to the death of the infant son of Jas. Wm. Gomersall. The mother stated that the child, which was born on June 22, had been weakly since birth, and, acting on the advice of a neighbour, she placed a paraffin-poultice on its chest. Subsequently a doctor was called in, but the infant gradually grew worse and died. The doctor told the Coroner that the child died from the effects of whooping-cough and bronchitis, aggravated by the application of paraffin-poultices. The jury deliberated for half an hour, and returned a verdict to the effect that deceased died from misadventure, the deceased's chest having been injured by the application of paraffin-poultices.

At an inquest held on Monday at Portwood on the body of the 2 years old child of Harold Phillips, the mother informed the Coroner that, thinking it was suffering from an attack of measles, she gave it some marigold-tea and whisky. Three days later, noticing swellings on its neck, she rubbed them with herbs and poulticed them, thinking it had the mumps. Then it had convulsions, and died after being put in a hot mustard bath. When a doctor arrived he told her she had been treating the child for the wrong complaint, and that it had died from scarlet fever. A verdict of death from natural causes was returned.

Poisoned by Diachylon.

A new form of lead-poisoning was investigated by the Birmingham Coroner on July 9, at an inquest on a young married woman named Gertrude Andrews. Deceased, who had two children, found herself *enceinte*, and as she was going on a holiday, and "wanted to be free," she proceeded to swallow large quantities of diachylon in pills, with the result that she became raving mad and death ensued. Dr. Crook said he found deceased dying from acute lead-poisoning. Diachylon contained a large portion of white-lead. He had seen the same effects in the potteries where lead accumulated in the system and suddenly exploded, as it were, causing exactly similar symptoms. He had also seen the same symptoms in lunatics in an asylum at Dresden, caused by lead-poisoning. He was persuaded from his experience in that neighbourhood that the practice of taking noxious stuff for these purposes was far more common than was generally supposed. Verdict in accordance with the medical evidence. The Coroner expressed the hope that the public would be warned by the case.

A Prescribing Chemist.

At an inquest held at Hammersmith on July 9, on the body of an old woman, it was stated that deceased had a strong objection to medical men, and obtained any medicine she required from the chemist. On the evening of her death she ate a hearty supper, dying shortly afterwards. Alfred Darch, chemist, 84 Praed Street, said the deceased's husband brought a note from deceased asking for a cough-mixture, which he made up and sent her, but which was of a harmless character. Dr. Charles Wiggin, Ladbrooke Grove, said he was called in, and found deceased dead. There were signs of cerebral hæmorrhage and fatty degeneration of the heart. Deceased's stomach was distended with large pieces of meat and bread, as well as liquid. The cause of death was coma, consequent on cerebral hæmorrhage. He should not have recommended the medicine the chemist sent had he seen her. The Coroner said chemists should not prescribe medicines in this way, and the jury returned a verdict of death from natural causes.

County and City Analyst for Worcester.

At a meeting of the Worcester City Council on July 5, a communication was read from the County Council stating that they were about to advertise for an analyst well versed in chemical and bacteriological science, who would have to devote the whole of his time to the work at the laboratory at

the Shirehall. They desired to know if the Corporation would employ the analyst the county proposed to appoint, and contribute to the county fund an amount equal to that now paid in salary to Dr. Swete as City Analyst. The Council were of opinion that it would be a distinct advantage to the city to avail themselves of the services of the County Analyst, because analyses and research would thus be expedited; and it was resolved that the Council authorise the Health Committee to carry out any arrangement they might think desirable.

Change.

At Reading Police Court, on July 9, George Vallance was charged with having attempted to steal 8*d.* from Mr. John A. Powell, chemist and druggist, St. Mary's Butts, Reading, on the previous day. Inspector Gentle stated that the accused entered Mr. Powell's shop and ordered fourpenny-worth of something. He held a shilling piece in his hand, and subsequently demanded 8*d.* change, alleging that he had given the shilling to the assistant. Prisoner was not given the change, and when he left the shop he (witness) followed accused to another chemist's shop where he tried the same trick. This shop was full of people, and prisoner succeeded in this case in getting the change. Information was then given to the police, and prisoner was arrested. A remand was granted to enable the police to make inquiries.

Carboy Causes Conflagration.

On July 7 an apprentice in the shop of Mr. Alford Rogers, chemist, Vaughan Street, Llanelly, after dusting the window-carboy left the duster lying close to one of the carboys on the glass window-shelf. Later on Mr. Vaughan discovered the duster in a blaze, it having been ignited by the concentration of the sun's rays by the carboy.

The Train Won.

A chemist, named Bertie Haddock, hailing from West Bromwich, was charged before the Birmingham Magistrates on Monday with attempting to enter a Great Western train whilst it was in motion. According to the evidence of one of the company's detectives he was first knocked down by a carriage-door, and on making a second attempt was thrown against the buttress of a bridge. A fine of 10*s.* and costs was imposed.

Trade-trips.

The employés of Messrs. Woolley (Limited), wholesale druggists, Audley Range, Blackburn, had their outing on July 7. This took the form of a picnic at Stonyhurst. The whole of the cost was borne by the firm.

Messrs. Besley & Dagleish (Limited), chemists' printers, Exeter, took their employés to Totnes by train, and then by a river Dart steamer to Dartmouth and on to Kingswear. Later in the day the excursionists returned to Torquay, where the remainder of the day was well spent.

The Cambridge Pharmaceutical Association went to Huxton on Thursday, July 7. A saloon-carriage was reserved for them, and a good party of members and friends had a really good time. A substantial meat-tea was provided, and Mr. E. Saville Peck took photographs of the company. The evening was spent in sea-trips, drives, and walks. Mr. B. Sidney Campkin, who had made all the arrangements, was warmly thanked on the way home.

Messrs. James Townsend & Son, chemists' printers, of Exeter, took their employés for their annual trip on Saturday last, Bristol and Bath, or either of these cities, being offered as the end of the excursion. A company of 129 sat down to dinner at Stuckey's Hotel, Wine Street, Bristol. Mr. James Townsend occupied the chair, the Vice-Chairmen being Mr. Wm. Townsend and Mr. T. J. Tayler. The speeches after dinner included a toast, proposed by Mr. W. Townsend, to "The Navy and Army," which was acknowledged by Sergeant Turner, 1st D.V.A., and Sergeant Manning, 1st R.V. Mr. T. J. Tayler submitted "Our Worthy Employers, and Prosperity to the Firm," to which the Chairman replied. "Our Representatives" was proposed by Mr. W. Townsend, and Mr. F. Luxton responded. Other toasts followed, and then the company dispersed to explore the interesting features of Bristol and Clifton.

Action against a Chemist's Assistant.

At Lincolnshire Assizes on July 7, Harry Scupholme, formerly a chemist's assistant, was sued by Jos. Richard Field for damages for the seduction of his daughter. After evidence for the plaintiff had been given the jury awarded plaintiff 40*l.* damages.

Cricket.

Mr. W. H. Youngusband, chemist, Wigton, is an enthusiastic and successful cricketer. In three recent matches he made 170 runs without being once out.

Stevenson & Howell C.C. v. Hewlett's C.C.—Played at Brockley, Saturday, July 9. Stevenson & Howell C.C., 109; Hewlett's C.C., 65 for two wickets when time was called.

Allenburys C.C. had a match on July 9, at Wadham Lodge, Walthamstow, between the single and married members of their club. The single men reached 134 runs for eight wickets, F. C. Hanbury being responsible for 48 of these, and J. Ware for 36 (not out). The married men scored 46 for four wickets, 26 being credited to S. Needham.

Edmund Burke as a Pill-maker.

A memorial to Edmund Burke was unveiled last Saturday in the parish church of Beaconsfield, Bucks, where he is buried, and at a subsequent meeting Lord Rosebery, describing Burke's country life, referred to his hobby of compounding pills for his poorer neighbours. "The man whose eloquence was the delight of his country, whose writings created an impulse such as no political writings ever have done, sat down to waste his time, as some might have thought it, compounding rhubarb with other disagreeable adjuncts into remedies for his poorer neighbours. And as he did so he told a story which I think is worth repeating. He said, 'I am like an Irish peer whom I used to know, who was also fond of dealing out remedies to his neighbours. One day that nobleman met a funeral, and asked a poorer neighbour whose funeral it was. "Oh, my Lord," was the reply, "that's Lady So-and-So, whom your Lordship cured three days ago."'" (Laughter.)

The Sleepy Sundriesman.

At the West London Police Court, on July 13, Walter Robinson, described as a druggists' sundriesman, residing in Chelsea, was charged with travelling on the District Railway without paying the excess fare, and with assaulting a ticket-collector at Hammersmith. In answer to the charge, prisoner said he fell asleep in the train and went on to Hammersmith by mistake. He felt annoyed on finding that there was not any train to take him back to Sloane Square, and used the collector rather roughly. The Magistrate said there was some doubt whether the prisoner intended to defraud the company, but for assaulting the ticket-collector he was fined 20*s.* and costs, with the alternative of twenty-one days' imprisonment.

New Books.

Bennett, A. W. *The Flora of the Alps*. 120 coloured plates. New edition. 8½ × 5¼. Pp. 418. 15*s.* net. (J. C. Nimmo.)

Blake, A. H. *Photography*. 7½ × 4½. Pp. 115. Illus. 1*s.* (Routledge.)

Boron Food-preserveds and their Influence on the Human Organism. 6 × 9½. Pp. 59. 6*d.* (Perkins Bacon.)

Bradshaw, B. *Dictionary of Bathing-places, Climatic Health-resorts, Mineral Waters, Sea-baths, and Hydropathic Establishments*. 1898. 6¼ × 4¼. Pp. 426. 2*s.* 6*d.* (Paul.)

Burdett, Sir H. *Burdett's Hospitals and Charities, 1898; being the Year-book of Philanthropy and the Hospital Annual*. 7½ × 4¾. Pp. 970. 5*s.* (Scientific Press.)

Coles, A. C. *The Blood: How to Examine and Diagnose its Diseases*. 8vo. 6 Coloured Plates. 10*s.* 6*d.* (Churchill.)

Detmer, W. *Practical Plant-physiology*. Translated by S. A. Moor. 8¾ × 5¾. Pp. 555. 184 illus. 12*s.* (Swan Sommeschein.)

Friedberger and Fröhner's Veterinary Pathology. Vol. I.: *Infective Diseases of Animals*. Translated and edited by M. H. Hayes, with Notes on Bacteriology by Dr. G. Newman. 9¼ × 5¾. Pp. 542. 12*s.* 6*d.* net. (Thacker.)

Irish News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.—Preliminary Examination.

The following have passed:—

C. J. Still	P. P. Waldron
A. Morris	W. A. Stewart
T. H. Ringland	E. B. P. Stumton
J. W. Hogan	W. McCully
W. Corridan	F. J. O'Hara
S. R. Wilson	T. B. Fahy

Eight candidates were rejected.

Pharmaceutical Assistants' Examination.

D. C. McDougall and R. Telford have passed.

Registered Druggists' Examination.

C. R. McMullen has passed.

Personal.

Mr. J. Armstedt Ray, jun., B.A., M.P.S.I., has opened a laboratory at 15 Nassau Street, Dublin.

Dr. J. J. O'Sullivan, of 4 The Mall, Waterford, has been appointed medical officer to the De la Salle Training College in that city.

Mr. W. H. Harvey, who has been in business in Dublin Street, Clonmel, for five months, has gone to Tullamore, where he has secured an appointment as manager of the local medical hall. Mr. Harvey formerly acted as apothecary to Clonmel poor-law dispensary.

Winding Up.

The shareholders of the firm of Fred Lewis & Co., druggists' sundriesmen, Dublin, met on July 5, at Fleet Street, and passed a resolution to wind up the company voluntarily, because of inability through its liabilities to carry on business in future. Mr. Alfred Kellingley, accountant, Foster Place, Dublin, has been appointed liquidator to wind up the concern.

Photography as an Auxiliary.

Mr. R. A. Lennon Wilson, pharmaceutical chemist, of Monaghan, advertises an offer to present gratis to purchasers of six boxes of his pills a photograph of themselves. Whether the "pictures" will be taken before or after the pills have been swallowed or during the operation is not stated.

Checking the Drug-contract.

The Guardians of the Fermoy Union have decided in future to calculate the tenders for the supply of drugs and medicine according to the quantities supplied during the preceding year, in order that the keeping of a surplus stock may be avoided.

The Listowell Drug-contract

was fought out last week at the meeting of the Guardians, when Mr. M. O'Connor moved:—"That the tender of Mrs. English, of Mullingar, for medicines be rescinded, and that Messrs. Leslie's tender for the same drugs be accepted, as it was 18½ per cent. lower than the tender of Mrs. English, as proved by a return prepared by the Clerk." Mr. O'Connor stated that by accepting the tender of Messrs. Leslie a saving of 30% would be effected.

The motion was seconded, and Mr. P. Shine moved as an amendment:—"That the Board considers it of the greatest importance to have pure drugs supplied to the sick poor of the Union, and that during the time Mrs. English was previously contractor the medicines supplied by her gave very great satisfaction to the several medical officers of the Union, and that, from reports appearing from time to time in the public press, the medicines of the firm whose tender is the lowest have not given satisfaction in other Unions, we

see no reason for altering the decision come to already in accepting Mrs. English's tender."

A letter was read from Messrs. Leslie, Dublin, asking as their tender was the lowest that it be accepted. They undertook, if appointed, to supply all drugs of the best and purest description, answering to the British Pharmacopoeia tests. A letter from the Local Government Board was also read advising that samples of the drugs should be periodically sent for analysis. In reply to a Guardian, Dr. Moriarty, medical officer of the Ballylongford Dispensary District, said he had told the Local Government Board's Medical Inspector, on the occasion of his usual visit, that he did not consider the medicines good. Pressed to say who was contractor, Dr. Moriarty declined to say more than that he was contractor at a very recent period.

Mr. Strack, J.P.: Are we to assume that this applies to Messrs. Leslie?

Dr. Moriarty: You are to assume nothing. Continuing, he stated that he examined one of the tinctures supplied and found that it would not burn, which it should do if made with proof spirit. Croton liniment, one of the most expensive items in the list, contained spirit of turpentine instead of oil of cajuput. The drug was supplied at 10d. a pint, but should cost 5s. 6d. or more. In connection with the tenders for the present contract, which he examined with Dr. O'Halloran, he found that some of the contractors offered to supply drugs in some cases at half the price for which they received them themselves from the wholesale contractors in Liverpool. The most extraordinary semi-frauds were perpetrated in connection with medicine-contracts, and, unless watched, patients would often receive medicines which were anything but what the doctors order.

Ultimately 17 Guardians voted for the amendment, and 4 for the motion. The amendment was therefore carried.

Scotch News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

Aberdeen Pharmaceutical Association.

The members of this Association with some friends went for their annual excursion on July 6. They left Aberdeen by the 10.10 A.M. train for Banchory, and thence by brakes through this pleasant Deeside summer resort along Fenchside to Whitestone, near the foot of Clochnaben. After a three-hours' drive the party arrived at Potarch, on the banks of the Dee, and lunched on the green in front of the hotel. The return journey by Kincardine O'Neil, Torphins, and Glassel was much enjoyed. Banchory was reached at 5 P.M., when dinner was served at the Burnett Arms. Mr. James Clark, Ph.C., presided. The return train arrived at Aberdeen about 9 o'clock.

More "Gowff."

The sixth and final round of the Edinburgh Pharmacy Club hole-and-hole competition, which began in March, was played over the Braids course on July 9. Mr. A. C. Kirkpatrick, allowing Mr. D. N. Wylie one hole, beat him after a close game by two holes.

The Lu-Mi-Num Action.

The action brought against Mr. J. W. Russell and a number of other gentlemen in Dundee by the Lu-Mi-Num Manufacturing Company (Limited), London, in respect to shares in the company, was heard by Sheriff Campbell Smith in Dundee last Friday, and, after hearing counsel, the Sheriff ordered the two liquidators for the company to assist themselves as party pursuers within ten days, which means that he makes them personally responsible for the action.

Presentation.

In Aitchison's Rooms, Queen Street, Edinburgh, on July 6, at a social gathering of past and present pupils of the Edinburgh Central School of Pharmacy, the principal, Mr. W. B. Cowie, was presented with a handsome timepiece and side ornaments on the occasion of his marriage. Mr. A. J. Dey occupied the chair, and the presentation was made by

Mr. J. Rutherford Hill. Mr. Cowie expressed his high appreciation of this mark of goodwill of his students. He congratulated them on their success at recent examinations, and paid a tribute to the devotion and ability of his assistants, Messrs. Senter and Scobie.

French News.

(From our Paris Correspondent.)

THE SOCIETY OF PHARMACISTS FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF IODINE held its annual meeting last Wednesday, July 13, at the Paris School of Pharmacy, when the usual formal business was transacted and the accounts passed.

FRENCH OPINION ON THE NEW B.P.—In terminating his review on the new B.P., M. Domergue remarks that the mention, alone, of the varied formulæ employed for the preparation of tinctures shows us that we are far removed from the universal and international Pharmacopœia. He appreciates the use of the metric system, but is of opinion that the authors ought to have re-arranged the formulæ, and adds that the book contains a large number of medicinal tests that are missing in the present French Codex.

RECOGNITION.—In the thickly populated quarter which surrounds the pharmacy of M. Rièthe, the new President of the General Association of French Pharmacists, stands the Free Dispensary for Children, founded in 1892. M. Rièthe has always taken much interest in the pharmaceutical work of this interesting institution, and is Secretary of the Council of Administration. The mayor of the arrondissement profited by the recent annual general assembly of the Dispensary to present M. Rièthe, in the name of his colleagues in the work of charity, with a gold medal as a testimony of their appreciation of his zealous and disinterested exertions. The little ceremony, kept a secret till the last moment, was a pleasant surprise to the popular pharmacist.

CORNELIUS HERZ, who died at Bournemouth last week, was a man around whom for a few years the political fortunes of France may almost be said to have pivoted. He rose to this unique position by his remarkable activity and intelligence, and in spite of the fact that he was an alien, being of German-Jewish parentage and an American citizen. The influence he wielded in Paris was marvellous, and about ten years ago he was in the leading rank of prominent personages here. He had a peculiar faculty of using other men's brains, and at one time he had a large circle of friends amongst the leading scientific men of Paris. Having himself a diploma of Doctor of Medicine, he deigned to patronise both the healing art and pharmacy, but he was most prominent by the active part he took in the development of electricity in France about 1880, and in this matter I am inclined to think he rendered some valuable service. But his defects so far outstripped his virtues that his collapse was inevitable. I met this remarkable man some time before the Panama Scandal, in which he was so deeply implicated, and well remember his enthusiasm in the cause of electricity.

DOCTORS AND PHARMACY.—A somewhat original letter, addressed by a Parisian medical man to country doctors, has been published, and proves interesting reading. The writer (who claims to be a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour and in a good financial and professional position) offers 25 per cent. to his *confères* on every bottle of a speciality prepared by him that is sold within the radius of their practice. He declares this will not affect the pharmacists, who will receive the usual discount, and that absolute discretion will be observed. The arrangement with doctors is to remain a secret, and how the secret is to be kept is, he says, the "egg of Christopher Columbus," which he will only reveal when the country practitioner has signified his willingness to accept the proposition. In any case, he declares, "the pharmacist will never suspect," the "interest of the patients will be assured" physically as well as financially, and the doctors' "professional dignity" will in no case suffer; and he terminates by suggesting that, "if the profits thus made are inconvenient, they can always be given to the poor, and thus contribute to the success of a work useful to doctors less

well off than yourself." He states that his scheme is not of the nature of "collusion between doctor and pharmacist" forbidden by French law.

ILLEGAL PRACTICE OF PHARMACY.—M. Gautherie, pharmacist at Egletons (Corrèze), and his sister, Mme. Saugeras, of St. Angel, have been prosecuted for a breach of the French pharmacy law. It appears that M. Gautherie took a certain number of medicaments bearing his label to his sister's private house in a neighbouring village, which, it is stated, she retailed to various persons in her neighbourhood. The inspector of pharmacy, acting on information received, made a domiciliary visit and requisition. M. Gautherie was fined 600f. (24*l.*) and his sister 516f. (20*l.* 12*s.*), damages assessed at 200f. (8*l.*) being awarded to the Corrèze Pharmacists' Syndicate. Mme. Saugeras was further required to "close the pharmacy"—a difficult matter considering that she had never opened one. Again, quinine is included by the legal luminaries of Ussel, before whom the case was tried, among the "toxic and venomous substances," and no mention is made of the fact that M. Gautherie is simply condemned as an accomplice of his sister. The Syndicate, though awarded damages, are to pay their own costs; Mme. Saugeras, the real culprit in a legal sense, is to benefit by the First Offenders Act, while M. Gautherie has no such alternative. We do not know if M. Gautherie will care to appeal against the somewhat curious judgment.

Australasian News.

[From "The Chemist and Druggist of Australasia" for June, 1898, copies of which, price 6*d.*, may be obtained on application to the Publisher.]

A NEW ORCHID has been discovered by Mr. F. M. Reader, F.R.H.S., pharmaceutical chemist, Dimboola, and named *Prasophyllum fusco-viride*, sp. nov., F. M. Reader. It is a diminutive plant, leaves and flower-stalk appearing at different seasons, the latter 5 inches to 12 inches high, and the flowers very minute. It is very rare, only two specimens being found in 1897, and it has the peculiarity of flowering in winter—April to August.

QUEENSLAND COLLEGE OF PHARMACY.—The first tutor appointed by the college for preparing students for the Board's Qualifying examination is Mr. S. W. G. Rice. Mr. Rice received his preparatory education at the Annunciation School, Brighton, England, and then took courses at the State School, Queensland, and the Brisbane Grammar School. The work of the tutor is not intended to supersede the regular lectures or laboratory-practice, but to be supplemental to them.

GOT A NEW DIPLOMA.—At the meeting of the Queensland Pharmacy Board Mr. F. J. Lennox, Rockhampton, complained that his diploma was received with the seal so much destroyed, apparently by vermin, that he did not care to exhibit it, and requested the Board to supply him with another. The Registrar said the damage must have taken place when the diploma was in the hands of a wholesale house to whom it was directed to be sent for forwarding by Mr. Lennox. The diploma was cancelled, and another one issued.

PHARMACIST INVENTOR.—Mr. W. J. Bruton, a chemist's assistant at Kent Town, S. Australia, has been turning his attention to overcoming the present inconvenient method of opening a railway-carriage window, and has just secured patent rights for an invention entitled the "Brunton automatic window." The apparatus is manipulated by means of two buttons of the same type as those used in electrical gear. If it is desired to shut the window one of the buttons is pressed, as in the case of an electric bell, and the internal apparatus does the rest. Similarly if it is desired to open the window, the other button does it with ease and satisfaction. The invention allows of opening and shutting to any extent, it being just a matter of relieving the pressure on the button when the window or shutter has run up or down. The action is purely mechanical, and can be applied to ordinary house-windows. Steps are being taken to form a company.

PHARMACY ACT, N.S.W.—The first prosecution under the Pharmacy Act of New South Wales was heard on May 18 against Mr. E. A. Harwood, pharmacist, Raymond Terrace, who was summoned by the registrar of the Pharmacy Board, and charged with having on December 9 last procured himself to be registered under the Pharmacy Act by means of a false representation and declaration. Harwood had made a statement on oath that he had a business at Newtown, and duly signed it. The prosecution contend that the business Harwood claimed as his belonged to the late Dr. Jones, Harwood being only the assistant. Mr. Trafford, the opposition pharmacist at Raymond Terrace, gave evidence for the prosecution, as also did an accountant at the Australian Drug Company. The latter said he knew the defendant, who used to come to their office to pay Dr. Jones's accounts. Bills were always made out to Dr. Jones, Harwood never having been a customer. The case was, however, dismissed. The Magistrate, in refusing the defendant an order for costs, said there was something unsatisfactory about the case.

CHLORODYNE AND THE N.Z. CUSTOMS.—There is a good deal of difference of opinion in Wellington just now as to the interpretation of the words, "chlorodyne, free," in the Customs tariff. A merchant imported a quantity of tr. chlorof. et morph., directing the shippers to invoice it as chlorodyne, so that it could be landed free of duty. On arrival the Customs authorities, thinking it very cheap chlorodyne, investigated the matter, with the result that the importers were made to pay 6*d.* per lb. duty on the tincture, and a fine of 5*l.*, which they consider is a great hardship, maintaining that tr. chlorof. et morph. is chlorodyne. Chemists who take an opposite view admit that tr. chlorof. et morph. was put into the B.P. so that medical men could prescribe an article of known composition instead of a secret proprietary medicine, yet it is not called chlorodyne, and is only meant as a substitute for the original Dr. Collis Browne's chlorodyne. The wording of the tariff is very vague, and it is not surprising that the Customs authorities object to the promiscuous use of the word in order to evade the duty to which an article is liable under its proper name.

South African News.

(From our Cape Correspondent.)

ARTIFICIAL MUSK.—The Anglo-Colonial Chemical Company (Limited), of London, Eng., wish protection in the Cape for a new method for producing an artificial scent or musk-like substance. Provisional protection has been granted for six calendar months from May 27.

BUSINESS CHANGE IN KIMBERLEY.—Mr. A. Davison has sold his chemist's business at 6 and 8 Stockdale Street, Kimberley, to Mr. J. W. McBeath, chemist and druggist, formerly of West Hartlepool. Mr. Montague Thane retains the management of Mr. Davison's business in Dutoitspan Road, Kimberley.

SIMON'S TOWN PHARMACY.—In reference to the paragraph in our issue of May 21, page 819, regarding Mr. A. E. Linley's start in business there, Mr. A. H. Bull writes to contradict the statement that there is "no other dispensing chemist in Simon's Town." He has been in business there for ten years, and there were others before him up to forty years ago.

A SMALL LOT.—The superintendent of the Cape Police is the latest one to bid for trade in the drug line, but he confines himself strictly to one thing—quinine. This was the offer that he made on June 20.

Tenders, marked "Tender for Purchase of Sulphate of Quinine," will be received by the Controller and Auditor-General, Cape Town, up to noon on Monday, the 20th inst., for the purchase of 300 oz. of sulphate of quinine in good condition, prepared by Howards & Sons, Stratford, London. The sulphate of quinine is packed in 100-oz. tins. Terms, net cash on delivery. The highest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

A STARTLING ADVERTISEMENT.—I was not a little surprised (writes our correspondent) to find in the *Cape Argus* (a pink evening paper) an advertisement by an old-established

London firm of wholesale druggists, who intimate to the public by this means that they "guarantee all pharmaceutical preparations supplied by them to answer B.P. tests. Orders for rough chemicals, patent medicines, &c., executed on commission terms. Tinctures, &c., shipped in bond. Correspondence invited. Price-list on application." Comment would be superfluous.

THE PHARMACY BILL.—The *South African Medical Journal* for June contained two articles on the Medical and Pharmacy Act Amendment Bill, to which reference was made in a recent issue of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST. The first of the articles gives the medical view, and as one of the clauses of the Bill is to the effect that "no person shall be entitled to medically treat persons or prescribe medicines by reason that he is a person licensed as an apothecary or chemist or druggist," this naturally calls for the doctor's approval—indeed, his "point of view" is simply that he and his class only are entitled to prescribe. "The pharmacy point of view" is more broad-minded and judicious. The Bill is taken as a whole and fairly criticised, the defects being noted, and means of improving them pointed out. This contributor specially mentions that the Pharmacy Board had recommended that doctors should keep open shop only within a certain radius of the nearest chemist (five miles); but this has been ignored in the Bill, and the writer of the article says that it "will be regarded as a novel and interesting movement in the history of medicine that a legislative attempt is about to be made to recklessly break down this barrier to the medical man's deterioration in professional tone." The writer points out that the following clause is not an impartial one, since it relieves the doctor of a proper restriction:—

For the purposes of this Act the word "shop" shall mean and include any place whereat drugs or chemicals other than those mentioned in the 54th section of the said Act are sold in the ordinary course of business, but shall not be taken to include any surgery, dispensary, or other place whereat a medical practitioner compounds, dispenses, or supplies drugs or chemicals in the ordinary course of his practice.

Other sections of the Bill are also adversely criticised. [As we pointed out a fortnight ago, the fate of this measure was decided by the dissolution of the Cape Parliament, but it is apparently a Government measure, and may appear again in the same form; we therefore urge upon Cape chemists to unite in having the Bill remodelled. Permission to medical men to keep open shop is not a fatal objection; but, if they are to do so, they must submit to all the restrictions, &c., imposed upon the regular chemist. Clause 9 is ridiculous and unnecessary, if the medical law of the colony provides that no persons other than registered medical practitioners may do the things which the law has reserved for these practitioners, and there is nothing on the British statute-book which makes prescribing the peculiar privilege of medical men. Moreover, the clause would prevent any chemist giving a dose of medicine to any of his family. It would be better for both sides if the clause were removed; a chemist cannot live on prescribing where a doctor starves.—ED. C. & D.]

Wills of Deceased Chemists.

Letters of administration to the estate of Mrs. Mary Proctor, chemist and druggist, Nottingham, who died, a widow and intestate, on July 31, 1897, have been granted to her daughter, Miss Kate Proctor, by whom the deceased's personalty is sworn at 240*l.*

Letters of administration to the estate of the late Mr. Henry David Greenshields, chemist and druggist, Hassatt Road, Homerton, have been granted, with his will annexed, to Mrs. Susan Greenshields, the widow, by whom the testator's personal estate was sworn at 86*l.* 10*s.*

The will of the late Mr. George Gee, High Town, Sandbach, Cheshire, chemist and druggist, has been proved in London, by Mrs. Anne Gee, the widow, and Mr. W. H. Eardley and Mr. W. W. Gibson, the executrix and executors therein named, by whom the testator's personal estate was sworn at 895*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.*

The War and the American Drug-trade.

(From New York Correspondents.)

AMERICAN enterprise is finding plenty of outlet just now on account of the war. The stranger arriving in New York would have difficulty in realising that the country is actually at war; the city presents an appearance more in harmony with a national holiday. From every house and from street to street waves the national flag, giving the city an appearance such as has not been seen since the Columbian celebration. Pharmacists are well to the fore in this respect, and in many windows may be seen the U.S. ensign worked in drugs or chemicals. The stars are produced by epsom salts on a background of copper sulphate, and the stripes by alternate layers of bichromate of potash and sal soda. In almost every line of business specialities with a war significance are making their appearance. The worst specimen is "Spanish-flag toilet-paper." It is only fair to say that this is only handled by the street jokers. It is, of course, intended as an insult.

I noticed a large sign across a drug-store the other day, which stated that Blank's bug-poison was warranted to kill "bugs, Spaniards, and cockroaches." This druggist is located in the Bowery—a sort of Old Kent Road.

One of the prettiest novelties is a smelling-bottle made in the shape of a piece of fixed ammunition. The body of the bottle is of dark glass, with a small foot similar in shape to the body of a cartridge, and the shell is well imitated by a conical nickel-screw cap. The salts are said to be "always ready and rapid fire," and the label bears the crossed ensigns and the motto, "Remember the *Maine*."

In this connection "Beecham's oracle" has found a new development. Pictures on tissue paper of the battleship *Maine* are being sold, in which the ship is depicted at anchor, and on shore is a Spaniard stooping down over some object. A red-hot wire or taper is applied to the Spaniard's hand, and instantly a fuse is lighted, which works its way, à l'oracle, towards the ship. On reaching it an explosion takes place, caused by the ignition of a paper cap pasted on the back. The design is entitled "Who did it?" and is enormously popular.

THE NEW PROPRIETARY-STAMP.

By the time this reaches you the druggists here will know what it means to stamp their own and other people's proprietary articles. I enclose samples of the four stamps which will be chiefly used by the trade. The general opinion amongst pharmacists in this city is that, taken all round, the taxes will raise the prices so as to give the retailer a better profit than is obtained at present.

SUMMARY OF THE STAMP-TAX.

Articles retailing at 5c.	¼c.
" " " 10c.	½c.
" " " 15c.	¾c.
" " " 25c.	1c.

Over 25c., ½c. for every 25c. or fractional part thereof.

The penalty of evasion of the stamp tax is a fine not exceeding \$500, or a term of imprisonment not exceeding six months. It will be seen that the tax is trifling compared to that on patent medicines in England. Of course, perfumery and many other articles must be stamped, but, on the whole, the tax does not call for any great outlay of money by the retail trade, which by a very small advance in prices will gain rather than lose. [The engraving shows the exact size of



the U.S. stamps, which are, however, supplied in various colours to distinguish the different rates.]

The majority of manufacturers have decided to advance prices to meet the extra cost of stamps, &c., though certain patriotic firms have decided that the free advertising they will get will compensate for the tax. Considering that

articles which in England would retail at 1s. or 1s. 6d. are here sold for 50c. and a dollar, the tax seems small, and one which the manufacturers could well afford to bear, especially as the retailer cannot advance prices to the public unless he happens to sell at cut rates. The retail trade is up in arms, and claims that the drug-trade is always the first to suffer from extra taxation, and that the whole burden of the tax will fall on the retailer.

Confusion also reigns in the wholesale trade as to the meaning of the word "proprietary." Some dealers announce that patented articles of the phenacetin class will be stamped. Other proprietors take a contrary view. At present the tendency is to stamp everything, whether simple chemical compound or not, and whether advertised to the medical profession or the general public; and then, in the event of preparations such as phenacetin being declared not liable, the owners will be enabled to indulge in that game so dear to the American heart of "making a claim on the Government." All exported proprietaries are required to be stamped, but a rebate is allowed of the value of the stamps

OPENING FOR THE BRITISHER.

When the enormous scope over here is considered for advertising proprietary articles, it is surprising how few English firms avail themselves of a market which is in every respect favourable to anything of English manufacture. Any article made in England carries with it the merit of being of the best, amongst a certain class. I believe the United States offers a grand field for English perfumes and patent medicines, while horse-powders and veterinary medicines would practically open up new ground, as druggists here seldom know anything about horses, dogs, &c. A well-advertised line of horse-medicines would go well, even in New York.

Trade-Marks Applied for.

Anyone who objects to the registration of a trade-mark must address the Comptroller-General, Patent Office, Chancery Lane, W.C., within a month of the date of publication.

(From the "Trade Marks Journal," July 6, 1898.)

- "DESICHTOL and "ICHTHOGEN"; for all goods included in Class 3. By Ichthyol Gesellschaft Cordes Hermann & Co., Hamburg, manufacturers. 210,505 and 210,506.
- "PERALIA"; for a toilet-preparation for the complexion. By T. E. W. Henderson, North Shields, perfumery and maker of toilet-specialities. 213,974.
- "LOROZA"; for a liquid toilet-preparation for the skin. By Mary Allun, Bedford Row W.C. 214,331.
- Device of a pair of horns (the essential particular) and wording, "Horn Brand"; for furniture-polish and like preparations. By Gourmet & Co., Mount Pleasant, W.C., manufacturers. 213,846.

(From the "Trade Marks Journal," July 13, 1898.)

- "ADUROL"; for photographic developers. By the Chemische Fabrik auf Actien vormals E. Schering, Müllerstrasse, Berlin. 213,062.
- "SOCINDUS"; for chemical substances. By La Société Industrielle de Produits Chimiques, Rue de Rome, Paris. 213,784, 213,785, 213,786.
- Device of shell (the essential particular), with wording "Liquid-glue"; for gluc. By Kay Brothers, Stockport, manufacturing chemists. 214,658.
- "VINEX"; for non-poisonous weed-killer. By the Valdene Chemical Company, Yeovil. 213,411.
- "NIMROD"; for chemical substances used for agricultural, &c., purposes, and for use in medicine and pharmacy. By A. Finlay, Victoria Square, Belfast, soap and candle manufacturer. 214,384, 214,385.
- "CREOLINE"; for all goods in Class 2. By Jeyes' Sanitary Compounds Company, 64 Cannon Street, E.C., manufacturing chemists. 214,446.
- "BURTAKO"; for cream of tartar substitute. By Burton, Baker & Co., Southwark Street, S.E., merchants. 213,663.
- "BENANI"; for all articles in Class 48. By E. G. Hughes, Manchester, operative chemist. 214,407.

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain

EDINBURGH RESULTS.

THE July quarterly examinations, in accordance with the Pharmacy Acts, 1852 and 1868, concluded on July 7, at the Society's House, 36 York Place, Edinburgh. The results were as follows:—

Major Examination.—Three candidates were examined, and the following passed:—

Ernest Carr Bennison, Stockton-on-Tees

Minor Examination.—One hundred and twenty candidates were examined, and the following forty-nine passed:—

Adams, Robert A., Glasgow
Anderson, Wm., Dunfermline
Barlow, Joseph A., Burnley
Bertram, Alex., Edinburgh
Blackwood, R. J. S., Glasgow
Brown, Edward J., Portobello
Brown, John, Edinburgh
Charteris, David, Glasgow
Clowes, G. D. K., Manchester
Cooper, George P., Leith
Cunningham, John, Glasgow
Curry, George, Leith
Dallow, Charles E., Edinburgh
Finlay, James, Edinburgh
Fotheringham, W., Portobello
Hardy, Thomas, Manchester
Husband, Arthur, Edinburgh
Irvine, Peter, Glasgow
Jackson, Chas. H., Edinburgh
Kerrison, Albert J., Edinburgh
Leggott, Harry, Edinburgh
Leslie, William, Edinburgh
Lochhead, Alexander R., Ayr
Macarthur, M. J., Glasgow
Macbride, Robert, Rutherglen

McHarg, Alex., Edinburgh
McHattie, Jas. R., Edinburgh
McLaren, William, Glasgow
Martin, John, Edinburgh
Mereer, Jos. I., Manchester
Morton, J. L., Ramsbottom
Owles, David H., Manchester
Pinkerton, Wm. R., Glasgow
Power, Ernest G., Newcastle
Riaeh, David, Leith
Ridgway, Jas. H., Manchester
Scott, Robert B., Manchester
Simons, William, Sheffield
Smith, Alex. N., Edinburgh
Smith, Roderick, Edinburgh
Smith Thomas C., Edinburgh
Spence, William, Edinburgh
Taylor, Samuel, Edinburgh
Thomas, Edm. G., Edinburgh
Thomas, Wm. H., Edinburgh
Thompson, Harry, Edinburgh
Todd, R. A. McL., Edinburgh
White, James A., Manchester
Yates, William, Edinburgh

"FIRST" EXAMINATION.

THE following are the questions given on Tuesday, July 12:—

LATIN.

(Time allowed—from 11 A.M. to 12.30 P.M.)

I. For all Candidates. Translate into Latin:—

1. He was the seventh and the last of the Roman kings.
2. Neither I nor you have done these things.
3. Philoetetes was wounded in one foot.
4. He asked whether this was true or not.
5. The walls of Babylon were two hundred feet high and fifty feet broad.

II. Translate into English *either* A (Caesar) or B (Virgil).

(Candidates must not attempt both authors.)

A.—CAESAR.

1. Ita que prius, quam quicquam conaretur, Divitiacum ad se vocari jubet, et, quotidianis interpretibus remotis, per C. Valerium Procillum, principem Galliae provinciae, familiarem suum, cui summam omnium rerum fidem habebat, eum eo colloquitur: simul commonefacit, quae ipso praesente in concilio Gallorum de Dumnorige sint dicta, et ostendit, quae separatim quisque de eo apud se dixerit. Petit atque hortatur, ut sine ejus offensione animi vel ipse de eo, causa cognita, statuatur, vel civitatem statuere jubeatur.

2. Postulavit deinde eadem quae legatis in mandatis dederat, ne aut Aeduis aut eorum sociis bellum inferret; obsides redderet; si nullam partem Germanorum donum remittere posset, at ne quos amplius Rhenum transire pateretur. Ariovistus ad postulata Caesaris pauca respondit, de suis virtutibus multa praedicavit.

Grammatical Questions.

(For those only who take Caesar.)

1. Decline in the singular *nullam partem*; and in the plural *suis virtutibus*. (Passage 2.)
2. Give the principal parts of all the verbs in Passage 1.
3. Write in Latin—14, 29, 11th, fifteen times, three books each, every twentieth man.
4. What is meant by an "indirect question"? Write sentences introducing some of the particles used in Latin for questioning indirectly.

B.—VIRGIL.

1. Talibus incensat, gressumque ad moenia tendit.
At Vennis obscuro gradientes aere sepsit,
Et multo nebulae circum dea fudit amictu;
Cernere ne quis eos, neu quis contingere posset,
Molirive moram, aut veniendi poscere causas.
Ipsa Paphum sublimis abit, sedesque revisit
Laeta suas; ubi templum illi, eentumque Sabaeo
Thure calent arae, sertisque recentibus halant.
2. Janque ibat dicto parens, et dona Cupido
Regia portabat Tyriis, duce laetns Achut.
Cum venit, aulae is jam se regina superbis
Aurea composuit sponda, medianque locavit.
Jam pater Aeneas, et jam Trojana juventus
Conveniunt, stratoque super disembitur ostro.
Dant manibus famuli lymphas, Cereremque canistris
Expediunt, tonsisque ferunt mantilia villis.

Grammatical Questions.

(For those only who take Virgil.)

1. Decline in the singular *pater Arcas*; and in the singular and plural *mantilia*. (Passage 2.)
2. Give the principal parts of all the verbs in Passage 1.
3. Write in Latin—14, 29, 11th, fifteen times, three books each every twentieth man.
4. What is meant by an "indirect question"? Write sentences introducing some of the particles used in Latin for questioning indirectly.

ARITHMETIC.

(Time allowed—from 12.30 P.M. to 2 P.M.)

(The working of these questions, as well as the answers, must be written out in full.)

1. Divide 5 qrs. 6 bus. 3 pks. 2 qrs. 1 pt. by 111.
2. If 480 flagstones each 5 feet square will pave a courtyard, how many will be required for a yard 8 times as large, each flagstone being 4 feet by 2 feet.
3. Find the value of $\frac{1}{4} \left(\frac{4\frac{2}{3} \text{ of } 6\frac{3}{4}}{7\frac{2}{7}} \right) \times \frac{3\frac{3}{4} - 3\frac{1}{2}}{3\frac{3}{4} + 2\frac{1}{4}}$ of 182l. 7s. 5d.
4. Multiply .003625 by 74.2; and divide .03625 by .29.
5. I mix 80 gals. of spirit costing 15s. 6d. per gal. with 96 gals. costing 17s. 1d. per gall. and sell the mixture at 18s. per g. What is my gain per cent.?
6. In a certain company the total amount in shares subscribed is 80,000l., of which 10,000l. preference shares are to be paid a dividend of 5 per cent. The profits for the year amount to 3,475l.: what percentage will be paid upon the ordinary shares?

The following question must be attempted by every candidate:—

7. Give approximately in yards the equivalent of 2 kilometres.

A cask with two taps holds 240 litres of water. The first tap would empty $\frac{1}{4}$ of the contents in 5 minutes, and the second would empty $\frac{1}{3}$ in 6 minutes. If the cask is filled and the two taps are turned on for 2 minutes, find approximately how many pints of water will then be left in the cask.

ENGLISH.

(Time allowed—from 3 P.M. to 4.30 P.M.)

1. Parse fully the following sentence:—
"Come in!" the Mayor cried, looking bigger;
And in did come the strangest figure!
2. Explain, with examples, *Noun sentence*, *Adverbial clause*.
3. Correct the following sentences, giving your reasons:—
(a) He cannot distinguish between the old and new boat.
(b) Neither she or her brother are going there to-day.
(c) The story he told you and I is too outrageous to believe.
4. In the following passage supply the necessary capital letters, and put in the stops and the inverted commas where necessary:—
next day charles burst upon me triumphant well he has shown his hand he cried i knew he would he has come to me to-day with what do you think a payment of gold in quartz from the long mountain no i exclaimed yes charles answered he says theres a vein there with distinct specks of gold in it
5. Write a short composition on *one* of the following subjects:—
(a) Recent events in China.
(b) King Alfred.
(c) The pernicious influence of idleness.
(d) "Unity is strength."

Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.

THE monthly meeting of the Council was held on July 6, at No. 67 Lower Mount Street, Dublin, at 3 P.M. Present: Mr. R. J. Downes (President) in the chair, Mr. Beggs (Vice-President), Mr. Grindley (Hon. Treasurer), and Messrs. Bernard, Connor, Conyngham, Kelly, Simpson, Wells, Dr. Merrin, Professor Tichborne, and Dr. Walsh.

THE NEW MEMBER.

The PRESIDENT said his first duty was to welcome Mr. J. Edgar Connor as a member of the Council. He believed that in him they had an acquisition, and that he would prove a most useful member.

Mr. CONNOR thanked the Council, and said he would do his best to forward the interests of the Society.

CONGRATULATING THE SISTER-SOCIETY.

The PRESIDENT said that when he saw that the British Pharmacy Act Amendment Bill had passed the House of Commons he sent a telegram to the President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, congratulating him on that event, and he had received a telegram from the President returning thanks for the congratulation.

FRIENDS IN PARLIAMENT.

A letter was read from the Earl of Mayo, stating that he had presented the Society's petition for the amendment of the Companies Acts in the House of Lords, and his Lordship enclosed a copy of the Sale of Poisonous Substances Bill. There was also a letter from Mr. Lecky, M.P., intimating that he had presented a similar petition in the House of Commons.

The PRESIDENT said they ought to pass a vote of thanks to Lord Mayo. He sent them the first intimation that they received of the Poisonous Substances Bill.

On the motion of the VICE-PRESIDENT, seconded by Mr. WELLS, a resolution was passed thanking the Earl of Mayo and Mr. Lecky for their action in the matter, and expressing the hope that they would continue to use their efforts for the benefit of the Society.

CHEMISTS AND THE COMPANIES ACTS.

The PRESIDENT said he wrote to the Attorney-General for Ireland drawing his attention to the same petition.

The REGISTRAR read a letter from the Attorney-General, stating that the matter would receive full consideration at his hands.

The following was the President's letter to the Attorney-General:—

June 22, 1898.

SIR,—In common with the other members of the House of Commons, you have received a circular asking you to support the prayer of our petition which has been presented in the House of Lords by the Earl of Mayo, and in the Commons by Mr. Lecky, M.P. for the University of Dublin. I now venture to address you, as Chief Law Officer of the Crown in Ireland, and ask you to consider the difficult position in which this Society is placed in its endeavour to enforce the law. The Pharmaceutical Society is interested in this matter on behalf of its two grades—the pharmaceutical chemists, who are qualified as compounders of medical prescriptions and as sellers of poisons; and the registered druggists, who are qualified only as sellers of poisons. I know it is argued that the public are protected if the "hand that sells" is qualified; but our difficulty is to identify the illegal seller on a company's premises. He need not be the manager, and if he is anywhere on the premises he can be made a cover for the act of the unqualified seller. Last month in Belfast there was the case of a very irregular sale of cyanide of potassium by an unqualified hand (an apprentice) in one of the establishments of the recently-formed Ulster Chemists (Limited). The purchaser, after going home, ate the cyanide, and died in a few minutes. At an inquest held by two magistrates the assistant was "cautioned" to be more careful in future. The company cannot be made responsible. We sent the report which we received to the Inspector-General, and have received the reply:—"It has been decided that the police should not prosecute in a case of this kind." In England, we know, prosecutions have been "successfully" carried against assistants, and the fine has been offered to be paid in minimum instalments, and practically lost. In many cases, I believe, the assistant has been dismissed the employment and cannot be found. What we seek is not a

matter of curtailing the liberty of free trade, but of securing to the public the benefits intended to be secured by the Acts of 1870, 1875, and 1890 that none but qualified persons should be engaged in the supply of poisons to the public. I need not point out to you that the primary requirement of a company to be registered is a "lawful purpose," but when a company is registered there is no way of raising the question, and the Registrar does not make the inquiry beforehand. There is no doubt it is illegal for seven unqualified persons to "open shop" to sell poisons, but by registration they appear to have the benefit of a special Act of Parliament repealing in their favour the Acts of Parliament to that effect. We have not troubled you in this matter earlier, as we were waiting on the House of Lords's measure; but, seeing another Bill has passed the second reading in the Commons, we have a hope it may be forwarded, and redress given us in it. The question is much broader than that of our Society, though we have raised it: as we have shown, all the professions are exposed to the same difficulties. I trust our petition may have your support and sympathy. I am, &c.,

R. J. DOWNES.

The PRESIDENT remarked that he thought the reply of the Attorney-General indicated that the matter would not be treated indefinitely.

A letter from the President of the British Dental Association intimated—in reference to the question of the amendment of the Companies Acts—that his Association were fully at one with the Council in the opinion that a company should not possess the power of doing what one member of it could not do individually.

A letter from the Registrar of the Oxford University intimated that that body were unable to support the Society's petition on the subject.

STANDS OVER.

A letter from Mr. Doherty (Secretary to the Privy Council, Dublin) stated that the question of the Privy Council's approval of a regulation which the Council of the Society had referred to them relative to the payment of half-fees by candidates who entered themselves for examination, but did not afterwards appear, was to stand over for the present.

THE POISONOUS SUBSTANCES BILL.

A letter from the Privy Council Office, Whitehall, acknowledged the receipt of the following letter which the President had addressed to the Duke of Devonshire on the subject of the Bill relating to the sale of poisonous substances:—

May it please your Grace,—Through the goodness of the Right Hon. the Earl of Mayo I have been favoured with a copy of a Bill, entitled "An Act for Regulating the Sale of Certain Poisonous Substances," which your Grace has introduced in the House of Lords. On behalf of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland I beg to submit—first, there is in Ireland a grade of registered druggists, numbering 424, who are not pharmaceutical chemists or chemists and druggists in the British sense, and are not qualified compounders of medical prescriptions. There are also over three hundred styled "chemists and druggists"—a title reserved to them as having been used by them prior to the passing of the Pharmacy Acts (a title which will not continue)—who have only the same right to sell scheduled poisons which the registered druggists have. These grades are in addition to the 550 pharmaceutical chemists, who compound prescriptions and sell poisons; making a total of about 1,500 licensed poison-sellers, who occupy all the towns of any importance in Ireland. These grades in a manner represent the druggist of England, but they are required to pass an examination with respect to their knowledge of "English orthography and composition, arithmetic, and the weights and measures of the British Pharmacopœia, the appearance and properties of the various drugs and chemicals in general use," and the "Poisons (Ireland) Act, 1870," and have had an experience of four years as apprentice, previous to examination. These grades have a reasonable claim to any benefit that might be obtained by the extension of the poison-list, and, until it is proved that they are incapable of meeting the requirements of the public, they should be entrusted with the exclusive right of sale of "poisonous substances," as well as technical poisons. Not only do they carry the experience necessary for the trading in such substances, but, if convicted of any offence against the Act, the offender is liable to have his or her name erased from the register. In conclusion, I respectfully submit the proper course would be a liberal extension of the second part of the schedule and a continuance of the restrictions which were imposed on behalf of the public in 1870, 1875, and 1890.

I have the honour, &c.,

R. J. DOWNES, President.

The PRESIDENT said this Bill—which had passed through the Lords since the time he wrote to the Lord President of the Council—was really in a public sense a retrograde and unreasonable measure. It allowed what were described as “poisonous substances” to be sold by everybody. On the face of it, it implied that those substances had been sold without label or caution, either because of ignorance or through a deficient sense of morality on the part of the seller, because the only thing the Bill did was to say that they were to be labelled “poison.” The Privy Council were not willing to treat them as poisons, but the public were expected to treat them as poisons. Up to 1870 every sort of poison could be sold in Ireland without registration or service or anything of the sort; but it should be borne in mind that the chemists and druggists who in 1870 did the poison-trade of the country were men who had been trained to sell poisons, and who had served five or six years’ apprenticeship, because they were then at the tail of the old guild system, which required apprenticeship. At that time there was no idea of crossing trades. The grocer did not try to be a druggist nor the druggist a grocer. Yet though that was the condition of the trade at the time, the Government of the day were so alarmed that in 1868 they passed the English Poisons Act, which recognised the licentiates of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain as qualified sellers of poisons. They thought it necessary to place some of those poisons in their hands. At that time they had no such body in Ireland; they had only the Apothecaries. In 1870 the Irish Poisons Act was passed, which required that poisons should be sold in a particular way. The sale of poisons at that time was exclusively in the hands of qualified men who had been brought up to the business and had served their time to it. This went on until 1875, when that Society was constituted, and from that time the public took the additional advantage of placing the sale of poisons in the hands of licentiates of the Society. Owing to circumstances there remained in the country a large number of unqualified men who continued selling poisons, and they were recognised as such down to 1890. But they were not recognised since without having passed an examination. Now, however, the Government actually wanted to revert to the state of affairs that existed prior to 1870—to go back twenty-nine years upon what experience had shown to be a good system. The Government were refusing in this Bill to recognise “poisonous substances” as poisons, whilst they required the seller to label them as “poisons,” thus actually admitting that they were such and ought to be dealt with as such. If the Bill should pass, the “poisonous substances,” such as sugar of lead, &c., would be obtainable throughout the country and in the cities at hucksters’ and grocers’ shops and at stores, whereas if they wanted to get corrosive sublimate they would have to go to another shop. The public would not understand what reason there was for making a distinction between “poisonous substances” and the poisons mentioned in the second part of the schedule. To his mind the very fact of a person having to go, as at present, to a druggist’s shop for these things was in the nature of a safeguard. He, therefore, thought that the Council should oppose the intended retrograde proceeding. The question was, How were they to reach their object?

Mr. CONYNGHAM: Ask them not to extend the Bill to Ireland.

Mr. BERNARD: Have not the public every facility at present for obtaining poisons in Ireland?

The PRESIDENT: Will you draft a circular asking your licentiates and the druggists to approach their representatives on the subject?

Mr. WELLS said if the Bill should be passed as it stood now it would be a very serious matter.

Mr. KELLY said they should make a determined stand against this Bill. It was a positive injustice to the pharmaceutical chemists and the druggists of Ireland. The pharmaceutical chemists had fifty votes in that division of Dublin, and they could twist the election any way they liked.

Mr. CONYNGHAM: The thing would be to try and prevent this Bill from being applied to Ireland. We don’t want it here.

Mr. WELLS said the idea of the Government in promoting this Bill was simply to reward some of their followers. The idea of it had been started by a member of Parliament who

had been prosecuted for selling poisons. He was a large seedsman, and wanted facilities for selling these things in Scotland. It had not been shown that there was any want of poison-sellers in England any more than in Ireland. If this Bill should pass they would have people in the country thinking they had a right to sell scheduled poisons. It would touch the Society’s licentiates seriously in the matter of compounding, for even where an eye-lotion made up on a medical prescription contained a few grains of sugar of lead it would have to be labelled “Poison,” not only on the bottle, but on the wrapper, and, as the Society were law-makers, they could not be law-breakers. They should, therefore, make a strong stand against the Bill, and ask their licentiates and the registered druggists to speak to their local members of Parliament about it. Their licentiates had a great deal of power in the local representation. They had two members in Dublin, and it was the vote of the pharmaceutical chemists that put Mr. Campbell in for that division of the city. They knew that he would do what he could for them; and Mr. Field had also promised to support them. It had been argued in support of the Bill that notwithstanding the past legislation a large number of accidental poisonings had taken place in England, but they left out of view in how many hundred cases accidents had been prevented by poisons being properly labelled.

The PRESIDENT: The Privy Council are claiming the right to make regulations about the storage of poisons here. My impression is that they should not make regulations for us without our approval of them.

Mr. WELLS: If this Bill is passed as it is, there will be no public prosecutor. If the measure is left in the hands of the police, it will be a dead letter.

Mr. CONYNGHAM suggested that a committee should be instructed to consider the Bill. There were many points in it that the Council would not be able to get altered.

Finally, on the motion of the VICE-PRESIDENT, seconded by Mr. WELLS, the following resolution was passed:—

That a circular be sent to all the Irish members of Parliament, drawing their attention to the Sale of Poisonous Substances Bill, and asking them to try to prevent the Bill being passed; also to our licentiates and registered druggists, asking them to write or speak to their local “M.P.’s”; and that the Law Committee take the necessary steps.

THE B.P.C. MEETING AT BELFAST.

A letter was received from the Honorary General Secretaries of the approaching British Pharmaceutical Conference to be held in Belfast, asking the Council to name delegates. The President, the Vice-President, and Messrs. Kelly, Connor, Conyngham, Dr. Walsh, and Professor Tichborne were nominated.

THE POLICE AND THE POISONS ACT.

A letter was received from the Inspector-General of the Royal Irish Constabulary referring to the case of a sale of poison by an assistant in an establishment of the “Ulster Chemists (Limited),” stating that it was decided the police should not prosecute in cases of this kind.

The PRESIDENT said what happened in that case was this. A man, who had been drinking for some time, went to the establishment in question and purchased some cyanide of potassium and went home. His wife chided him for being drunk, upon which he said he had a thing for that, and put the cyanide into his mouth, and ate it, and in a few minutes was waiting for an inquest.

Dr. WALSH: Is not that communication very different from the one which you received some months ago stating that instructions had been given to the police to prosecute in all these cases?

Mr. WELLS: When we waited on the Inspector-General he said the police would carry out the Poisons Act, and he sent out a circular to that effect then and there. Now you are told that they are not to carry it out.

Mr. BERNARD: Is not the alleged offence that the buyer was unknown to the seller, and did not sign a poisons-book?

The PRESIDENT: It was labelled, but the book was not signed.

Dr. WALSH: We will have to prosecute if the police do not.

The PRESIDENT: I took upon myself to request Mr. Field

to ask in the House of Commons what we are to understand by this communication.

The VICE-PRESIDENT: I think that was a very advisable course to take.

Mr. WELLS: Yet this is the class of young gentlemen whom they want to allow to sell these poisonous substances.

A letter from Sergeant McDonough, R.I.C., Castleblinlham, reported that James Gannon and Stephen Butterly had been each fined 5*l.* for selling, the one carbolic acid, and the other Metcalf's cough-syrup.

The PRESIDENT said Sergeant McDonough did his work remarkably well. He understood the whole thing, and left them very little to do; but, on the recommendation of their solicitor, counsel was sent down.

Mr. BERNARD: Will the amount recovered pay our expenses?

Mr. GRINDLEY: Not if they reduce the fines.

DONATIONS

were received from the Editor of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST of a copy of "Pharmaceutical Formulas," and from the Editor of the *Pharmaceutical Journal* of copies of "Metric Equivalents of Imperial Weights and Measures and Thermometric Equivalents" and of the "P.J. Synopsis of the British Pharmacopœia, 1898, Processes and Formulæ."

Thanks were voted to the donors.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Several reports were disposed of and committee business was dealt with.

Mr. KELLY mentioned that a licentiate of the Society, Mr. David Jardine, who had taken out his chemistry and botany lectures in the Society's schools, had gained an exhibition in the Royal College of Science of 50*l.* a year for two years, with free education.

The election of an examiner in chemistry for the licence was postponed.

On the motion of Mr. GRINDLEY, seconded by Mr. WELLS, Mr. William Redpath (Ballymoezy) was elected a member of the Society.

On the motion of Mr. OSULLIVAN, seconded by Mr. KELLY, Mr. Andrew Farrington (Dublin) was elected a member of the Society.

On the motion of Dr. WALSH, seconded by Mr. BERNARD, Messrs. William J. Hardy (Belfast), Henry Hunt (Waterford), and David O'Sullivan (Rathmines, Dublin) were elected members of the Society.

Mr. John M. Whelan (Galway) was nominated for membership, and Messrs. T. Dunning (Killenaule, co. Tipperary) and Jas. Moughty (Ball-yacargy) were nominated as associate druggists.

Chemists' Assistants' Union.

THE second meeting of the Union was held at the Horse-shoe Hotel, Tottenham Court Road on July 7, when further progress was made in the constitution of what its projectors hope will be a power to be reckoned with in the drug-trade of the future. The Chairman at the last meeting was, "through illness brought on by overwork"—a timely argument for the objects of the Union—unable to be present. One or two others who had been prominent supporters at last meeting were likewise absent in body, but protested their presence in spirit by letters of apology, good wishes, and good cheer. The attendance was not so good as at the first meeting, but before the proceedings terminated about thirty had mustered, and there was no lack of discussion. The meeting was conducted in a business-like manner—thanks chiefly to the Secretary and Chairman, both of whom showed a good knowledge of the conduct of public business. The Chairman on this occasion (Mr. E. Whinery) was the seconder of the motion at last meeting, and he opened by reading letters from the members who, as before stated, were unable to be present, and also from various sympathisers. The minutes of the last meeting were then read by the Secretary (Mr. C. E. Pickering) and approved. Thereafter the Secretary read a letter from the President of the

Birmingham and Midland Chemists' Assistants' Association, expressing enthusiastic delight at the formation of the Union, and offering to act as secretary for that district. Mr. Pickering, continuing, said he saw nothing to hinder them from having an energetic secretary, such as this gentleman, in every large town in the country, and that would be the only way to make their Union thoroughly representative.

Before proceeding to the election of a Council the Chairman invited the opinions of the meeting on the objects for which they were met, as he observed certain gentlemen present who had not been at the last meeting, and perhaps some new ideas might be obtained. The new members were rather shy at first, but the ice was broken by one of a coterie who were evidently in the throes of their Minor examination, if we may judge by various comments overheard on "the mess Jones had made of his lin. tercbinth." and the iniquities of a certain Professor who was given to "wiggling" unlucky students on the slightest pretext. This gentleman was anxious to know if anyone present had any idea as to how the Pharmaceutical Society looked upon this Union. Many present were unqualified, and if the Pharmaceutical Society and their examiners came to regard this Union as antagonistic, its supporters might remain unqualified (in spite of all their efforts) for an indefinite period. As for himself, he was frankly antagonistic to the Society. In his opinion they had never done anything for chemists or chemists' assistants, and until they made a start he did not intend to support them. He instanced the case of Sir J. Lubbock's Shop-hours Bill. In that Bill (which has not passed, by the way) chemists were specially exempted from early-closing, which ought not to have been the case, and it was the duty of the Pharmaceutical Society to see that they were not exempt. As for the antagonism of the masters, it was all very well to say they would work with us, but he knew a man who lost his situation through being connected with such a Union as this, and it was an ominous fact that he was a long time in obtaining another. As there was no direct representative of the Pharmaceutical Society present this gentleman could not get a decisive answer, but several supporters of the Society spoke the official views very successfully, and one was almost eloquent. He thought it superfluous to discuss that question. Both the Union and the Society have the interest of the trade at heart, and therefore cannot be in antagonism. He would make it a regulation that every member of their Union should be a member of the Society. It ought to be made clear that they had no desire to stir up strife or bring up controversial subjects.

The Pharmaceutical Society was evidently a controversial subject, for some of this gentleman's arguments on behalf of the Society were questioned freely. However, he was an able young man with considerable pluck, so he went on to give his opinion on the vexed questions of higher education and the rectification of all things by the process of natural evolution. In conclusion he advised that the Union be merely made a sun-centre, from which sociability should be radiated on all sides, and thereby cause a gradual brightening and improvement in the lives of the chemist's assistant.

The Chairman was also an enthusiastic supporter of the Society, but he thought it might be left optional to members of the Union to join the Society. However, if a big Union were formed it might some day happen that one of their members might be also a member of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society, and in that case the rights of unqualified members of the Union would be looked after and obnoxious examiners removed.

The Poisonous Substances Bill was next touched upon. At the request of the meeting the provisions of the Bill were detailed and commented upon by Mr. Pickering. In the course of his speech he commended the admirable circular issued by THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, and suggested that all the members of the Union should apply to Cannon Street for copies to be sent to members of Parliament. The Chairman thought it advisable to petition the Pharmaceutical Society on the subject and get them to oppose the Bill in the House of Commons, as he believed the Society was a power in the Lobby. This brought the inevitable question from the Society's critic, "What, then, have the Pharmaceutical Society been doing about the Bill all this time? They are keeping very quiet about it." Eventually it was

moved, seconded, and unanimously carried that the following resolution be sent to the Pharmaceutical Society:—

That this meeting of the newly-formed Chemists' Assistants' Union urge the Pharmaceutical Society to take active steps to prevent the Poisonous Substances Bill now before Parliament from becoming law, both in the public interest and in the interest of those who have passed the necessary legal examination to carry on business as chemists.

It was next proposed that a provisional Council, composed equally of qualified and unqualified men, be appointed for three months. This was agreed to, and the following gentlemen were appointed:—Messrs. Vallet, A. L. Jones, R. F. Jones, H. Lloyd, Pickering, N. Smith, Lumley, Islip, R. Hill, Middleton, Clegg, Wright, G. B. Armstrong, and H. Mallagh.

A first meeting of the Council will be held on July 21, when the President and the various officers will be appointed and the drafted rules considered.

Society of Chemical Industry.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT NOTTINGHAM.

ON Wednesday, July 13, the above Society held its annual general meeting in the large lecture-theatre of Nottingham University. The President of the Society for the past year, Professor Frank Clowes, D.Sc., took the chair shortly after 10.30. The attendance was not very large, but the members made up in enthusiasm for their *confrères* who were absent. The business was opened by the President calling upon the Secretary to read the minutes of the Manchester meeting of 1897. These having been disposed of, the scrutators for the voting-papers were elected, and the voting-papers collected for their digestion.



PROFESSOR FRANK CLOWES, D.Sc.

The report of the Council was then read by the Secretary, from which it was gathered that the total membership of the Society was 3,196, as compared with 3,037 at the last annual meeting. The elections for the past year were 311, which is the largest number on record since 1890.

The collective index of the journal is nearly complete, and some very good results must be expected, for the Secretary made the statement that no printer could be found who had enough type of the particular kind necessary to keep the whole of the index in type while corrections were being made. The members are looking forward to its publication, and general satisfaction was expressed at the statement.

The sanction of the meeting was to be asked to a slight amendment of the Society's by-laws, the most important alteration being that when the number of nominations of the Council did not exceed the number of vacancies, no ballot should be taken. This alteration will mean a considerable saving of time at the annual meetings and the cost of printing.

The alterations in the list of Chairmen for the local sections are as follows:—

	Past President	President for 1898
London ...	Dr. Rudolph Messel	Boverton Redwood
New York ...	Prof. C. F. Chandler	Thomas J. Parker
Manchester ...	George E. Davis	David Watson, D.Sc.
Yorkshire ...	Thomas Fairley	Christopher Rawson
Liverpool ...	Dr. Chas. A. Kohn	Alfred Smetham

The report was closed by an expression of the Council's appreciation of the President's kind hospitality extended to the members at the reception recently given by himself in conjunction with the Presidents of the Society of Public Analysts and of the Institute of Chemistry.

In moving the adoption of the report, Dr. W. H. Perkin offered his congratulations to the Society for the considerable addition to its roll of members, which indicated a marked vitality and appreciation of its value. He well remembered the first meeting when the Society was inaugurated, and little thought it would grow to its present success and dimensions.

Mr. J. M. C. Paton seconded the adoption, and expressed his concurrence with Dr. Perkin and his satisfaction with the report.

THE SOCIETY'S FINANCES.

The Treasurer, Mr. E. Rider Cook, was absent owing to indisposition, and his report was read by the Secretary.

The Treasurer's accounts had already been published in the journal of the Society. They showed the following revenue:—From subscriptions, 3,524*l.* 12*s.* 11*d.*; entrance and other fees, 277*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*; interest on investments, 262*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.*; journal receipts, 944*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*; and collective index, 7*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*—altogether 4,738*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* Expenditure embraced the following items:—Journal expenses, 2,802*l.* 5*s.*; sectional expenses, 306*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.*; Secretary's and Treasurer's assistants' salaries, 390*l.*; annual meeting, 89*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.*; office expenses and stationery, 160*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.*; collective index, 100*l.* 10*s.*; and minor items which brought up the expenditure to within 757*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.* of the revenue. The investments of the Society now amount to 8,460*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.*, and there were cash balances of 607*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.* in hand on December 31, 1897.

A vote of thanks was proposed to the Treasurer for his report by Mr. George E. Davis, who said that Mr. E. Rider Cook had undertaken the duties ever since the foundation of the Society, and that they had grown tremendously. In proportion to the Society's progress so had been the receipts and expenditure, and the treasurer's task was a large one now. The speaker was hopeful that the Society would continue to increase and ramify, and that new sections would be formed in Canada and Australia, so that it would become not only a national society but an international one. Mr. Forbes Carpenter briefly seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Professor Clowes then read his

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

Having recalled the meeting of the Society in Nottingham eight years ago, Professor Clowes proceeded to speak upon the

ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOCIETY.

He mentioned that towards the end of June, 1881, when the Society was only three months old, it numbered about 300 members. Sir Henry Roscoe was the President, the Society was a truly national one, and Sir Henry said then, "The Society cannot fail in this way to contribute to the advancement of those important branches of national industry which are dependent on chemical principles." In all respects the aspirations voiced by the first President have been realised: the Society's journal is one of the most complete and valuable records of technical chemistry in the world, and there are sections of the Society in London, Manchester, Liverpool, Newcastle, Nottingham, Leeds, Glasgow, and New York. Those who have watched the gradual rise and development of these local sections of the Society will acknowledge the very important service which has been rendered by our

PROVINCIAL COLLEGES.

The great importance and advantage of the movement, which has brought higher university instruction into our

large provincial centres, are now universally conceded. The foundation of a university college not only leads to the introduction of higher instruction in pure science, but also advances in a most important way the interest and education in applied science, and wherever there is a university college there are arising sections of the Society. Professor Clowes then proceeded to speak briefly of the advantages of university colleges, and of the Nottingham one with which he had until recently been connected, and finished this portion of his address with some remarks on the losses which the Society had suffered during the past year through death, especially referring to Ferdinand Harter, the intellectual athlete and alkali specialist; Paul Schützenberger, the French dye-chemist; Horace Kœchlin, whose investigations in bleaching, dyeing, and printing showed heredity in that line to the third generation; August Kekulé, the great master and constructor in chemistry; Sir Henry Doulton, who devoted his life to plastic clay; and Sir Henry Bessemer, who made brittle iron into plastic steel. Men of the stamp of Doulton and Bessemer are peculiarly English, continued the President—it is the glory of England to have reared many such sons; and amongst them—though, fortunately, he is still hale and hearty, and actively working in our midst—we must certainly include the man whom your Council has this year selected for the award of its medal,

WILLIAM HENRY PERKIN.

Like Doulton and Bessemer, Perkin has been the founder of a great and important industry. The production of artificial colouring-matters from coal-tar products owes its origin, and in large measure its development, to Perkin. His devotion to the interests of this Society has been great, and in 1884 he was elected President. He has rendered very great services on the Council and committees of this Society. Professor Clowes then entered upon a eulogy of Dr. Perkin's work, recalling the fact that he was educated in the City of London School, where Edward Rider Cook, John Spiller, William Thorp, F. J. M. Page, William Garnett, and the speaker were schoolfellows of Perkin. "The science master in the school in those days was" (the President continued) "Thomas Hall—still affectionately termed by us 'Tommy'—who by his infectious enthusiasm led us to look upon natural science as an entrancing pursuit. To those of us who were juniors to Perkin at the school, Perkin, who had just made his discovery of 'mauve,' was freely held up as an illustration of what advantages might be secured by a scientific training. In fact, Thomas Hall, who otherwise does not appear amongst the discoverers of his day, may be said to have made one all-important discovery—he discovered Perkin. It was while Perkin was in Hall's form, and before he had shown special aptitude for any department of study, that his form master discovered in him an enthusiasm for experimental chemistry, which the master wisely fostered and encouraged to the utmost. In 1851 we find young Perkin assisting in the preparation of the chemistry lectures at the school, and two years later, when he was only 15 years old, he went by Hall's advice to the newly instituted Royal College of Chemistry with the intention of continuing his chemical studies under Dr. A. W. Hofmann. Perkin's rapid advance is marked by the fact that two years later he was acting as assistant to Dr. Hofmann in his research laboratory. In the following March he communicated his first research to the Chemical Society, and during the Easter recess (1856), while he was attempting to produce quinine artificially, he discovered 'aniline purple' or 'mauve'—a discovery which laid the foundation of the extensive coal-tar colour industry of the present time." Professor Clowes then dealt with Dr. Perkin's rise to fame, dealing with the facts which were recorded in printing a biographical sketch of Dr. Perkin in our Winter issue. The President then proceeded to remark: "It is commonly said that the secret of the success of the English soldier in war lies in the fact that he never knows when he is beaten. One is tempted to rise from a study of Perkin's career with the impression that he pursued his work of peace in a similar spirit, and triumphed over the many difficulties which beset him as pioneer and discoverer by never acknowledging an apparent defeat. By conferring our medal on a man of this type—a man also of

untiring activity and industry—we feel that we are honouring our Society in the endeavour to honour him.

"While we trust that the mark of our appreciation which we to-day bestow upon Perkin will meet with his acceptance, and will be treasured as an heirloom and memorial in later days, it would not be right to overlook the fact that the institution of the award of our medal is very recent, and that the medal is now only awarded for the second time. Accordingly, it naturally occurs that we try to confer honour upon a man already laden with the honours of his fellow chemists."

In concluding his address, Professor Clowes briefly alluded to some matters of applied science which have of late years been prominently under his notice. The first of these was the improvement of scientific methods applied to coal-mining, and especially to methods at once delicate, exact, and trustworthy, for detecting and measuring the firedamp or methane in the air of the mine. Then he spoke of

THE NEW ILLUMINANT, ACETYLENE,

pointing out that it is the discovery of a cheap method of producing calcium carbide which has brought acetylene to the front as a possible and powerful illuminant. An inspection of the flame of acetylene, when it is suitably produced from an appropriate burner, is sufficient to satisfy anyone that it is most desirable to secure the service of this brilliantly-burning gas. Apparently the general adoption of acetylene for illuminating-purposes is being delayed by the feeling that the gas is dangerous; and there certainly are not wanting instances of dire disaster arising from its preparation and storage.

In the liquid condition acetylene can undoubtedly, owing to its endothermic character, undergo most violent explosive decomposition, yet Raoul Pictet strongly urges that the liquid is safe if it is suitably prepared and stored. In the gaseous form we are assured by Vivian Lewes that the gas does not undergo this explosive decomposition when it is stored under a pressure less than two atmospheres. Lewes further states that this gas may be burnt in such a way, if it is properly prepared, as not to rapidly cause obstruction in the burners—a difficulty which has caused trouble in the past. He further states that, while it is not of use for enriching coal-gas, it is a valuable enricher of oil-gas.

It is to be hoped that the public may ultimately receive satisfactory assurance that they can employ acetylene as an illuminant with success and safety under suitable conditions. It will be remembered that other endothermic substances—such as nitroglycerine or dynamite, and nitrocellulose or gun-cotton—have now attained this desirable condition, after having in the past worked such disaster as to cause them to be looked upon by the public as hopelessly unsafe. It must be remembered, in any case, that acetylene when mixed in very small proportion with air furnishes an explosive mixture, but danger arising from this cause must certainly be looked upon as preventable.

The subject of the bacterial treatment of sewage was then referred to, Professor Clowes amusing his audience by taking as the nearest parallel to it the change of sugar into alcohol and carbon dioxide under the influence of the yeast-cell; followed by the production of vinegar from the alcohol of malt liquor or "must," under the influence of the *mycoderma aceti*, which has long been known to be the organism necessary to transfer the atmospheric oxygen to the alcohol. Indeed, just as it is found necessary that the saccharine liquid shall be sown with the yeast-cells, and the alcoholic liquid shall become sown with the *mycoderma*, before alcoholic fermentation and acetification can take place with rapidity, so it is found that the bacterial filter for sewage must become infected with the bacteria necessary for the liquefaction of the suspended organic matter of the sewage, and with those suited to effect the oxidation of the dissolved organic substances, before it is in a condition to purify the sewage.

Mr. George Beilby rose to propose a vote of thanks for the address, and in doing so mentioned his great pleasure in testifying to the important work that the Nottingham section, and Dr. Clowes in particular, had done to unite pure and technical chemistry.

Mr. William Thorp seconded the motion, and added his

testimony to that of Dr. Clowes as to the ability of the City of London School science master, Thomas Hall, and the way in which Perkin was always selected as an example for the students.

Professor Clowes then thanked the meeting for its vote, and proceeded with a few graceful compliments to the

PRESENTATION OF THE SOCIETY'S MEDAL

to Dr. Perkin, and said that of all the duties which his office had brought none gave him more pleasure than presenting the medal to Dr. Perkin as a token of the esteem in which they all held him.

In returning thanks, Dr. Perkin said that from his early days his one idea and leading thought was to carry out research-work in such a way as to benefit technology; previously all teaching of scientific research was disconnected with commercial work, and in industrial centres very few laboratories were to be found. The study of coal-tar was a valuable instance of this, for if it had not been for the research-work nothing would have been known of this valuable product; and yet on the other side of the question science had gained a great many substances for investigation by studying the waste and by-products which were the outcome of the research-



DR. PERKIN.

work in the first place. In undertaking the application of research-work to technical purposes and manufacturing-requirements the first difficulty which arises is the want of adequate plant and machinery for carrying out the work, and the introduction of a new industry such as the production of coal-tar colours necessitated the invention of a great amount of delicate and complicated plant, and required a sound knowledge not only of chemistry but of engineering and physics. He thanked the members for their kindness in presenting him with the medal, and felt a great satisfaction in the results which his work in the discovery of coal-tar colours had achieved.

ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS.

A ballot having been taken, the following office-bearers were elected (the names in italics are new appointments):—

President.—*George Beilby.*

Vice-Presidents.—*Professor F. Clowes, D.Sc., George E. Davis, John Heron, David Howard, Professor A. K. Huntington, Dr. Charles A. Kohn, Ivan Levinstein, A. Gordon Salamon, Dr. W. Jay Schieffelin, Dr. Edward Schunck, F.R.S., Wm. Thorp, B.Sc., Thomas Tyrer.*

Ordinary Members of Council.—R. Forbes Carpenter, *Sir John Evans, K.C.B., F.R.S., Sir David Gamble, Bart, C.B., W. Winwood Gossage, Oscar Guttman, Professor J. J. Hummel, Dr. Rudolph Messel, B. E. R. Newlands, John*

Pattinson, Sir Robert Pullar, Walter F. Reid, E. C. C. Stanford.

Hon. Treasurer.—E. Rider Cook.

Hon. Foreign Secretary.—Dr. Ludwig Mond, F.R.S.

The new President, Mr. George Beilby, the highest authority in this country on shale products, accepted his post and responsibilities, and then the delegate of the Society to the Imperial Institute and the auditors were elected, and the business of the meeting was terminated by accepting the invitation to hold the Conference in Newcastle next year. A short and sharp discussion of the amended by-laws by Messrs. Carulla, Boverton Redwood, Beilby, Tyrer, and Davis, and the meeting terminated.

In the afternoon the members were invited to a garden-party by Alderman Sir John Turney, and in the evening to a reception by the Mayor of Nottingham. Thursday was devoted to an excursion to Sheffield and the dinner in the evening, and on the Friday an excursion is arranged to Lathkill Dale, Haddon Hall, and Chatsworth.

Business Changes.

Notices of changes in the retail trade, and opening of new businesses, are inserted in this section free of charge, if properly authenticated.

MR. D. W. NICOLSON, chemist and druggist, has started in business at 295 Leith Walk, Leith.

MESSRS. TALBOT & Co. will shortly open branch premises in the Sheep Market, Spalding.

MR. GEORGE MORREY, pharmaceutical chemist, will shortly commence business in Market Drayton.

A PRIVATE house in High Street, Bangor, is being converted into a chemist's shop by Mr. Charles Bowen.

MESSRS. COCKBURN & Co. (LIMITED), cash chemists, Glasgow, have opened a branch establishment in Ayr.

MR. A. J. NORTON, from Savory & Moore's, London, has purchased the business of the late Mr. F. Billington at 137 Bispham Road, Southport.

MR. G. F. BRIMSON, late manager for Messrs. Wing, Aplin & Co., Chislehurst, has commenced business on his own account at Station Road, Addlestone.

THE York Pharmacy, Clifton, which has been acquired by Mr. J. Wormald Watts, was founded by Mr. Samuel Gowen, not by Mr. R. Keevil as stated in our issue of July 2.

MESSRS. BOOTS (LIMITED) will shortly remove from their shop in Market Place, Grantham, to more commodious premises in course of erection for them in the High Street.

MR. H. E. SPURR, chemist and druggist, has opened branch premises at Greenhead Road, Huddersfield, for which business he has also been granted a wine-dealer's licence.

MR. J. H. DICKERSON, who has been for many years with Mr. F. Clifton, chemist, Corn Market, Derby, has commenced business on his own account as a homœopathic chemist in Sadler Gate and Corn Market, Derby.

MR. ANDREW GRAY, chemist, Newton Stewart, N.B., has purchased the business lately belonging to Mr. A. M. Nicolson, chemist, 64 Victoria Street, Newton Stewart, N.B., of which he has been manager.

MR. G. M. ARROWSMITH, chemist and dentist, Whitstable, has opened a handsome pharmacy at 53 High Street, Broadstairs. Messrs. Philip Josephs & Son, Old Street, E.C., designed and executed the fittings, which are mahogany and plate glass. A curiosity and attractive feature of the front is an incised plate-glass fascia, measuring 15 feet by 2 feet, in one piece of glass.

"I have just had one of your second edition 'Pharmaceutical Formulas.' It is an invaluable book for an assistant."—J. G. (217/23).

Legal Reports.

The Pharmacy Act.

At the Manchester County Court, on July 11, the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain sought to recover the statutory penalty of 5*l.* from J. G. Desborough, of 35 Renshaw Street, Greenheys, for having acted as a chemist and druggist, contrary to the Pharmacy Act. The defendant did not appear. Mr. T. R. Grey, barrister, on behalf of the Society, called formal evidence of a sale by the defendant of a bottle of Kay's essence of linseed, which contained morphine and chloroform, and his Honour gave judgment for 5*l.*, with costs. In the case of James Edwin Winn, of 35 Higher Ardwick, Manchester, against whom three summonses were issued, and which he had admitted, his Honour entered a verdict for 15*l.* and costs in favour of the plaintiff Society.

Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

SPT. ÆTH. NIT. FROM THE OILMAN.

At Highgate Petty Sessions, on July 11, before Mr. John Glover, Mr. Fraser-Black, Mr. C. Barfield, and Mr. Alfred J. Reynolds, Henry Flack, oilman, of High Road, Whetstone, pleaded guilty to selling spirit of nitre which was deficient in ethyl nitrite to the extent of 48 per cent.

Mr. Bridge, the inspector for the Middlesex County Council, of which both Mr. Fraser-Black and Mr. Barfield are members, said he purchased from defendant's assistant some sweet spirit of nitre which, on being analysed by Mr. E. Bevan, the county analyst, gave the result named in the summons.

Defendant said he had seen the manufacturers, from whom he bought it in February last, and they told him it was now made differently to what it was then.

Mr. Glover: What is spirit of nitre used for?

Mr. Bridge: It is used by persons suffering from influenza and from ordinary colds.

Mr. Glover: People do not go to the oilshop for that?

Mr. Bridge said they did.

Mr. Fraser-Black: It is used for many other things.

Mr. Glover asked how long it had been in defendant's shop?

Defendant replied since February. It was now being made from another formula.

Mr. Bridge said there had been a difficulty about the standard, but that was now settled by the new edition of the British Pharmacopœia.

Mr. Reynolds: Have you brought this, then, as a test-case?

Mr. Bridge replied that there had been a difficulty in bringing it before.

Mr. Glover asked if he suggested that the oilshop-keeper should have known all the technicalities of the B.P., which Mr. Bridge had handed up to him.

Mr. Bridge: Oilmen sell a large quantity of drugs.

Defendant said he kept it only for one farmer, who used it for his cattle.

Mr. Barfield: This is not well known—is it?

Mr. Bridge: Oh, yes.

Mr. Barfield: Among oilmen?

Mr. Bridge: Oh, yes. Many deal more largely in drugs than chemists.

Mr. Glover remarked upon the serious nature of the offence; if inferior drugs were sold, the consequences might be serious, even to cattle. Where did you buy it?

Defendant: From Messrs. Flood, of the Borough.

Mr. Barfield remarked that it evaporated a great deal.

The Bench ordered the defendant to pay the costs, including the analyst's fee.

CONDENSED MILK.

TEN Swindon tradesmen were summoned on July 7 for selling condensed milk which, though described as condensed skimmed milk, was really milk separated by a mechanical process, by which much more—practically the whole—of the fat was removed. Fines of 5*s.* and costs were imposed in six

cases, but in the others the costs only were ordered to be paid, the tins having borne a label stating that the milk must not be used for babies or invalids.

The Medicine Licence.

SOLD OR GIVEN AWAY?

At the Stalybridge Police Court on July 13 Frederick William Jackson, patent-medicine vendor, was summoned by the Inland Revenue authorities for exposing for sale medicines without licence, and also for not having them stamped. Mr. Hawkins, who prosecuted, said the defendant sold for 1*s.* a number of recipes, and presented each purchaser with a box of pills. This amounted to a sale of the pills. Each box should have had on it a 1½*d.* stamp, but they were all unstamped. The defendant pleaded that he thought it was not a sale when he gave away the pills with the recipes. He had since taken out a licence, and promised to stamp the pill-boxes in the future. The Bench imposed fines amounting in the aggregate to 2*l.* 10*s.*

Bankruptcies and Failures.

Re CHARLES CHAPMAN, 21 Tennyson Street, Old Dock Road, Grimsby, Cattle-oil Manufacturer.

THE examination of this debtor, particulars of whose failure appeared in the *C. & D.* of June 11 (page 948), was resumed at Grimsby Bankruptcy Court on July 5, before Mr. Registrar Stephen. Further particulars were given, and the examination was closed.

Re JAMES RYCROFT, Victoria Street, Grimsby, Artificial-teeth Manufacturer.

THE public examination of this debtor was closed at the sitting of Grimsby Bankruptcy Court on July 5, and debtor was allowed to pass.

Re JOHN DAY, 9 Chapeltown Road, Leeds, Chemist.

IN this case the liabilities amount to 1,277*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.* and the assets are estimated at 492*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.*, thus showing a deficiency of 785*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.* The following are creditors:—

	£	s.	d.
Barron, Harveys & Co., London ...	75	0	1
Day, Benjamin, Shafton, near Barnsley...	31	12	6
Day, Miss, Leeds ...	100	0	0
Gardham Brothers, Leeds ...	11	14	0
Goodall, Backhouse & Co., Leeds ...	17	13	7
Hall, Miss, Wakefield ...	173	0	0
Hall, Mrs., Wakefield ...	400	0	0
Hyam & Co. (Limited), Leeds ...	11	13	3
Maw, Son & Thompson, London ...	11	17	3
National Telephone Co., Leeds ...	12	12	4
Bankers, Leeds...	292	0	1

Preferential Creditor for Rent.

Mossley, J. J., Leeds ... 12 10 0

Re EPHRAIM BURTON, lately trading at 20 High Holborn as the Sanitants Manufacturing Company.

At the London Bankruptcy Court, held on July 13, before Mr. Registrar Giffard, this bankrupt attended for public examination upon accounts showing debts 2,609*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*, and assets 5*l.*

In reply to Mr. Hough, Official Receiver, the bankrupt said he patented in 1895 a disinfecting, cleansing, and purifying compound, which he manufactured in very small quantities until last October. He then became associated with a firm of company-promoters who financed him, so that he could manufacture the article on a larger scale and advertise it with a view to forming a company to take it over. He thereupon issued circulars bearing the name of the Sanitants Manufacturing Company (Limited), 20 High Holborn, although no such company existed, but in February last the Sanitants Company (Limited), who were the petitioning creditors, obtained an injunction against him, with costs, restraining him from using the word "Sanitants." The examination was concluded.

Deeds of Arrangement.

Booth, Thomas, 275 Eccles New Road, Weaste, near Manchester, chemist. Trustee, George H. Lawton, 14 Brown Street, Manchester, chartered accountant. Dated, July 6; filed, July 11. Secured creditors, 25*l.* 10*s.*; liabilities unsecured, 288*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.*; estimated net assets, 153*l.* 10*s.* The following are scheduled as creditors:—

	£	s.	d.
Crosby, Johnson & Williams, Salford	11	0	0
Harrison, C., Salford	10	0	0
Haton, J., Pendleton	12	0	0
Hockin, Wilson & Co., London	11	0	0
Oldfield, Pattinson & Co., Manchester ..	38	0	0
Parsons, J., & Co., Manchester	11	0	0
Rannard, C. H., Salford	15	0	0
Riley, J., Pendleton	16	0	0
Wilkinson, J. T., Pendleton	2	0	0
Woolley, J., Sons & Co. (Limited), Manches'er ..	55	0	0

Delf, Frederick Daniel (deceased), by executrix, late of 39 Westgate, Dewsbury, chemist. Trustee, Walter Dawson, Union Street, Dewsbury, chartered accountant. Dated, July 7; filed, July 8. Liabilities unsecured, 201*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*; estimated net assets, 190*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* The following are scheduled as creditors:—

	£	s.	d.
Evans, Sons & Co., Liverpool	64	0	0
Lofthouse & Saltner, Hull	33	0	0
Symes, Dr., Liverpool	13	0	0

Harris, George Robert, trading in his own name and that of his late firm, "Harris & Wellings," 44 Terminus Road, and 14 West Terrace, Eastbourne, chemist and druggist. Trustee, John C. Towner, 57 Terminus Road, Eastbourne, auctioneer, &c. Dated, July 4; filed, July 8. Secured creditors, 250*l.*; liabilities unsecured, 1,150*l.*; estimated net assets, 600*l.* The following are scheduled as creditors:—

	£	s.	d.
Allen & Hanbrys, London	11	0	0
Burt, W. H., Eastbourne	47	0	0
Chemists' Waters Company, London	10	0	0
Clifton, Miss E., Eastbourne	110	0	0
Cohen, I. & M., London	13	0	0
Davy, Hill & Son, London	16	0	0
Garratt, J. E., London	15	0	0
Gilbertson, H., & Sons, London	14	0	0
Harris, Mrs. J. M., Eastbourne	359	0	0
Shoosmith, E., Eastbourne	80	0	0
Spurway & Co., London	14	0	0
Warrick Brothers, London	10	0	0
Wellings, A., Leicester	326	0	0

Gazette.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

- Crisp, E. H., and Plowman, T. A. B.**, under the style of Crisp & Plowman, The Lawns, Balham Hill, and Eagle House, South Side, Clapham Common, S.W., physicians, surgeons, apothecaries, accoucheurs, and general medical practitioners.
- Dyer, H. G., and Lister, C. E.**, under the firm of Dyer & Lister, Ringwood, Southampton, surgeons, apothecaries, and general practitioners.
- Foster, E., and Brown, G.**, under the style of W. Foster & Son and G. Brown & Sons, Northampton, mineral-water manufacturers.
- George, E. J., and Fielden, F.**, under the style of George & Co., Gillingham, mineral-water manufacturers.
- Mackechnie, D., and Ross, W.**, under the style of Mackechnie & Ross, West Hartlepool, physicians and surgeons.
- Marriott, R. B., and Allen, V. F.**, under the style of Marriott & Allen, Swatfham, surgeons and apothecaries.
- Troncer, J. H., and Cooper, H.**, under the style of Troncer & Cooper, Surbiton, physicians, surgeons, and general medical practitioners and apothecaries.

THE BANKRUPTCY ACTS, 1883 AND 1890.

RECEIVING ORDER.

Jolly, Hamilton William, Liverpool, surgeon's assistant.

ADJUDICATIONS

- Atkin, Alfred Howell**, Rochester, physician and surgeon.
- Filmer, George Budds**, Blackpool, carrying on business in co-partnership with Arthur Ryden under the style of Filmer & Co., mineral-water manufacturer.
- Lowes, John**, Tenterden, Kent, mineral-water manufacturer.

Trade Notes.

THE proprietors of the Cuticura Remedies notify advanced prices for Cuticura, Cuticura Resolvent, and Cuticura Soap.

DAISY (LIMITED), Leeds, are offering a prize for the best Daisy window under certain conditions which are set forth in their advertisement this week.

REFERRING to a note on page 68 of last issue, Messrs. R. W. Greeff & Co., 20 Eastcheap, E.C., inform us that Mr. J. D. Riedel's salipyrin patent (No. 10,432, July 5, 1890) is still in force.

MESSRS. F. NEWBERY & SONS, King Edward Street, E.C., have taken over the sole agency for Fels's Tuna; Richter's Pain-expeller, Congo Pills, &c.; and Peterman's cockroach and beetle poison and other vermin-killers.

MESSRS. R. MORRISON & Co., 3 Fen Court, Fenchurch Street, E.C., have been appointed sole agents for the United Kingdom for Messrs. Gehe & Co., wholesale druggists, &c., Dresden, Germany. In a note published last week "sub-agents" appeared instead of "sole agents."

ACETIC ACID.—In reference to a recent note on the B.P. permanganate test for acetic acid 33 per cent., Messrs. C. Christopherson & Co., 21 Mincing Lane, E.C., send us a sample of Dr. Behrens's acid, for which they are agents, and which we find to stand the new test well.

PRIEST'S DIAMOND CEMENT.—Messrs. Hooper, Struve & Co., of Pall Mall East, S.W., have recently purchased the business of Mr. B. Priest, Westminster, and the purchase includes the well-known diamond cement, which Mr. Priest had a demand for from all parts of the world. In future, therefore, orders for the cement should be addressed to Messrs. Hooper, Struve & Co.

MESSRS. FREDERICK SAGE & Co., of Gray's Inn Road send us a pamphlet containing a dozen fine photographs of exteriors and interiors of pharmacies fitted up by them. Among these are the shops of Messrs. James Woolley, Sons & Co, Manchester; Messrs. W. Owen & Son, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Parke's Drug-stores at Lewisham and Kingston-on-Thames; Mr. Goodall and Mr. Turner in the Fulham Road; and Mr. Mason, of Dulwich.

HYPHOSPHITES COMPOUND is the latest form of tabloid introduced by Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co. The tabloids are made to contain $\frac{7}{125}$ gr. of strychnine hypophosphite in each, together with the combined hypophosphites of calcium, potassium, manganese, iron, and quinine. Each tabloid is equivalent to $\frac{1}{2}$ dr. of standard compound syrup of hypophosphites. Another tabloid twice the strength of the above is also made.

Personalities.

MR. THOMAS BARCLAY, of Birmingham, is suggested as a possible candidate on the Liberal side for Launceston.

IN our report of a "malt-vinegar" prosecution in last week's issue the defendant was described as a chemist and druggist. We have since ascertained that he is not on the register of chemists and druggists.

MR MITCHELL has resigned his position as the dispenser to Greenwich Board of Guardians, and under the Supernumerary Act he will receive 63*l.* per annum. The salary attached to the office is 90*l.* a year, and it is proposed to appoint Mr. W. H. Smith.

MR. HERBERT M. KEMP (of Messrs. W. Kemp & Son), Horncastle, is again a member of the Horncastle District Council. He has been Vice-Chairman for the past three years, and has been offered the chairmanship, but has declined on account of the demands upon his time created by increasing business.

MR. T. I. HAYTON, pharmaceutical chemist, Wigton, seems to be a gentleman of divergent abilities. He himself has fitted up his business premises with electricity throughout; and amongst other novelties he has made a phonograph, which he lends out for use to gatherings for charitable purposes.

"SANITAS" EMBROCATION

In bottles to retail at

8d., 1/-, and 2/6.

"SANITAS"

AND OTHER

DISINFECTANTS

SULPHUR FUMIGATING CANDLES (Patent)
6d., 9d., and 1/- each.

PRESERVED PEROXIDE OF HYDROGEN (Patent).

MOTH PAPER, BLOCKS AND CRYSTALS. WEED DESTROYER, &c. &c.

THE SANITAS CO., LIMITED, BETHNAL GREEN, LONDON. AND 636-642 W. 55 STREET, NEW YORK.

G. S. MUMFORD FARRINGTON ROAD, LONDON, E.C.			
No. 1 Finest Pure CRUSHED LINSEED	16/ cwt	Finest Pure STARCH POWDER	19/ cwt
No. 2 Pure CRUSHED LINSEED	14/ cwt	No. 1 Finest Light Pure PRECIPITATED CHALK	25/ cwt
BEST CLEANED LINSEED	15/ cwt	No. 2 Pure PRECIPITATED CHALK	21/ cwt
No. 1 Finest Pure FULLER'S EARTH (Light Colour)	15/ cwt	"WHITE EARTH" Specially prepared for Toilet purposes.	18/ cwt
No. 2 Pure FULLER'S EARTH	12/ cwt	Finest Pure TOILET OATMEAL, SPECIAL	3 lb.
Pure LIQUORICE	7/10 lb	Best Pure ARROWROOT	9 lb., in tins.

* CARRIAGE PAID to Railway Stations within 200 miles of London (or allowance made for distances beyond) on a total weight of 112 lbs. and upwards of above articles. Smaller parcels delivered free on rail London at above prices.

JEWSBURY & BROWN'S

SODA-WATER,

Lemonade, Ginger Ale,

BREWED GINGER-BEER,
&c., &c.

Manufactory—ARDWICK GREEN, MANCHESTER.

PUREST IN ENGLAND.

BOURNE

SODA, SELTZER,
LITHIA, POTASH, LEMONADE,
GINGER ALE, &c.

Supplied in Six Dozen Cases,
Carriage Paid, by

TABLE

Analysis, &c., on Application.

R. M. MILLS & CO.,
BOURNE,
LINCOLNSHIRE.

WATERS

West End Agents, WHEATLEY & SONS, 24 South Audley Street, W.
City Agents, RAE & CO., 6 Railway Place, Fenchurch Street, E.C.
And of all Chemists, Wine Merchants, Hotels, &c.

HORLICK'S MALTED MILK

FOR

Infants & Invalids.

Send Trade Card and ask for a supply of "FREDDY'S DIARIES"; they will please your Customers.

34 FARRINGTON ROAD, E.C.

The principle of

Fletchers' Concentrated Liquors.

Is now recognised in the

BRITISH PHARMACOPŒIA, 1898.

Editorial Comments.

High Times for Pharmacy.

THIS week has been a notable one for British pharmacy. Tuesday, July 12, 1898, was the red-letter-day of the year. On that day, almost simultaneously in the Houses of Lords and Commons, pharmacists secured distinct successes, if not famous victories. We deal elsewhere with the collapse of the Government Bill for the regulation of the sale of "poisonous substances" so discourteously thrust upon us, and pushed through the House of Lords with such disreputable haste. We are not sure that that snake is more than scotched; we may have to deal with him again next year. But we hardly expect this, and, at any rate, we are entitled to congratulate the trade on the vigour, the unanimity, and the successful result of their demonstration. The case against the Bill was an exceptionally strong one, the occasion was important, and the chemists of to-day showed that they had grit in them of the same character as that which their predecessors of sixty years ago displayed, and which made such a lasting impression on the receptive mind of the Grand Old Man.

But more dramatic, from a pharmaceutical point of view, than the defeat of the Poisonous Substances Bill was the remarkable occurrence in the House of Lords on the penultimate stage of the Pharmacy Acts Amendment Bill. That harmless, and we had almost said useless, proposal—useless, at any rate, to the trade generally—was on the point of entering the harbour. It had appeared on the notice-paper of the House of Lords the proper number of times, and no peer had deigned to even notice its existence. It was read a second time last week, and slipped through Committee on Monday last in a perfectly formal manner. It was referred to the Standing Committee on Tuesday for final approval, and then came the sensation. With nothing to lead up to it, and in the most matter-of-fact manner, the Lord Chancellor, and supporting him Lord Herschell—the two most eminent legal authorities now living in the United Kingdom—agreed that a clause which would practically prevent companies from trading as pharmacists was required; the Earl of Hardwicke promised to draft such a clause and add it to the Bill on the third reading, which has been fixed for Monday next; and there the matter rests.

Where we shall be next week no one can foretell. In the first place, Lord Hardwicke may find—will probably find—the task he so airily undertook a rather more difficult one than it seemed when the two great legal chiefs suggested it. The problem is to frame a clause which shall prohibit the practice of pharmacy by companies such as Lord Herschell alluded to, and which shall not interfere with what are regarded as legitimate registrations. But the additional clause, whatever it may be, will have to be endorsed by the House of Commons before it can be passed, and if it should be one that will say what the two law lords mean, we have before us the biggest fight pharmacists have yet known.

The ironies of the situation are piquant. First we have the Pharmaceutical Society "letting I dare not wait upon I would" for twenty years, and getting this clause thrust upon them just at the moment when it is most inconvenient. They utterly refused to make their Bill a real amendment of the Pharmacy Act in the direction where amendment was particularly needed, because they were afraid, they said, that the introduction of such a controversial subject would jeopardise its prospects. Now it stands a good chance of being wrecked by reason of this very deficiency.

Even more striking is the position from the point of view of the drug companies. The most serious opposition to the Pharmacy Bill in the House of Commons was organised by Mr. Boot. It was motivated by the promise, or threat, that when the Society was "consolidated" an attack on company-pharmacy should follow. Mr. Boot's opposition failed, but now the best friends of pharmacy are not unlikely to carry out Mr. Boot's purpose, but in a way which threatens the very existence of Mr. Boot's companies.

There is one thing more which must be said. There is an immediate danger that the heads of the Pharmaceutical Society, in their eagerness to save their Bill, will urge on the Earl of Hardwicke the policy of reserving this attack on company-pharmacy for a more convenient season. Such advice would be, in our opinion, traitorous to the trade. The opportunity now offers itself of raising before Parliament the grievance which has troubled us so long. We have at this moment the highest legal authority on our side, and almost the certainty of securing the concurrence of the House of Lords. Such an opportunity may never recur. The jeopardy of the Pharmacy Bill is comparatively of no importance whatever. We can only hope that, if they have a voice in the matter, the influence of the Pharmaceutical Society will be thrown cordially and unreservedly on the side of the obvious interests of the trade, and that the Earl of Hardwicke will get from that body all the advice and assistance which he will need.

Chemists and the Spectacle-trade.

It is more than twenty years ago since we pointed out to the drug-trade that spectacles were a branch of business which chemists had neglected, and the result of various articles which we published was that many throughout the country took up this profitable extra, and in those cases in which the business has been done thoroughly chemists have had no reason to regret it. There are chemists in the kingdom to-day who net from 100*l.* to 200*l.* a year from this branch alone, and so convinced were the Spectacle Makers' Company of London of the share the drug-trade has in this business that they asked the Pharmaceutical Council to appoint a representative to act on a committee which they have recently formed to promote qualification in optics. At the same time representatives of jewellers were also asked to appoint one of their number to serve similarly. For reasons which will be perfectly understood by chemists, the Pharma-

ceutical Council has not seen its way to appoint one of its number, or even one of the trade, to act, but it is desirable, we think, that chemists directly interested should do something to meet the wishes of the Spectacle Makers' Company. That Company desires, before finally settling the details of the examinations, which are to commence in October, to have interested parties represented. A Board of Examiners has been appointed, which consists of Mr. Lindsay Johnson, F.R.C.S., Professor Silvanus Thompson, F.R.S., and Mr. Paxton (of Curry & Paxton, the opticians). The details of the examination have not yet been settled, but the test will be such as to give the diploma public value, while it will ensure that those who hold it shall have the confidence of optical prescribers. It is a condition necessary, we understand, owing to the charter of the Company, that those who receive the diploma should be members of the Company, but this privilege is to be granted for the nominal fee of 30*s.*—a marvellously small sum for the privilege, especially as it carries with it the freedom of the City of London. At the last meeting of the committee of the Company arrangements were made for a course of instruction in optical subjects in the Northampton Institute, Clerkenwell. Mr. Lionel Laurance has been appointed lecturer for a year, and although the course is provisional, there is every reason to believe that it will be made permanent. The fees will be nominal, and the course of instruction will be adapted to the Company's examination. For some time the British Optical Association, which is represented on the Company's committee, has been granting diplomas of membership to those who show themselves by examination to be competent. The Company's committee have decided that members of the British Optical Association who have passed the two higher-grade examinations of the Association up to July 1 shall receive the diploma of the Company, and afterwards Association candidates may receive the diploma on passing the Company's examination in visual optics. The Association referred to was founded in 1895, and has done so well as to incite the ancient City Company to action. The Association has three examinations. The first is called the "optic grade," and embraces examination in optic materials generally, the structure of spectacle-frames, &c. The second, or dioptric grade, deals with the same subject, and also requires a knowledge of the laws of the refraction of light and practical testing of vision. In the third, or ophthalmometric grade, these branches are more thoroughly gone into, and the candidate must be able to use the ophthalmoscope, as well as prescribe spectacles for those with defective vision. The Company's examination is likely to go along similar lines. Seeing that the provincial trade in spectacles is not at all likely for many years to be differentiated into a distinct calling, we think that some effort should be made by chemists and druggists to retain their share of the business, and especially to be represented on the committee of the Spectacle Makers' Company. Since the Pharmaceutical Council has declined to take action it remains for those directly interested to move, and if we receive sufficient response from them we shall endeavour to arrange a meeting at which a representative for service on the Company's committee could be appointed, provided, of course, the Company are willing to accept such a nominee. Will those interested please communicate with us?

Pharmacopœia Matters.

DR. LEECH's article on the Pharmacopœia in the *Medical Chronicle*, to which we have previously referred, throws light from the inside on the compilation of the B.P. He shows, for

example, how the decisions regarding omissions were arrived at, as, after the votes of medical men were received, those who voted for obscure medicines were written to by the Pharmacopœia Committee to explain their peculiarities, and in most cases it turned out that the votes were mistakes. Dr. Leech gives reasons for the deletions of some of the things which have caused the drug-trade surprise. Thus calamine is discarded because most of the commercial stuff is artificially coloured oxide or carbonate of zinc; acetic extract of colchicum has been omitted because the plain extract is just as good; and syrupus papaveris is no more official because "a preparation of opium which is not uniformly of the same strength, and cannot be standardised, is manifestly unfit for medicinal treatment, especially of children." Saffron has been retained in decoction of aloes because "pharmacists do not seem able to prepare an aloes-compound like the decoction without saffron." Dr. Leech does not attempt to justify its exclusion from aromatic chalk-powder. He is exceedingly candid in respect to the imitation of proprietary articles, and tells us that liquor pancreaticus stands for "liquor pancreaticus . . . a proprietary preparation"; another liquor "fills a much-felt want in the list of official remedies," for its prototype "has long been in general use under the name liquor carbonis detergens"; and "solution of hamamelis" now appears in the Pharmacopœia. A preparation of the witch hazel leaves (hazeline) has long been popular. This candid acknowledgment is refreshing in these days, and Dr. Leech accentuates the honour done to the originals when he says, referring to proprietary preparations of the antipyrin type, "it is not desirable to advertise private preparations by admitting them into the Pharmacopœia without good cause." He proceeds to say: "Chloral-amide is at present a proprietary preparation. It can be purchased now just as well as if it were in the Pharmacopœia, and since it can only be made by one foreign firm purity tests would be of no service." We take this to mean that if an article is the subject of a patent it will not be recognised by the British Pharmacopœia until the patent has expired, but it does not justify official imitation of proprietary articles which equally are the result of skill and knowledge exercised by their manufacturers.

These are points in Dr. Leech's paper which strike us as being of special interest to those whom we address. We observe that he endorses the remarks on page xix of the B.P. preface regarding the purity of drugs used in certain forms of medicine ("capsules, granules, tabloids, and the like," he names). "It has been thought better to avoid giving instructions for such forms. Any process given would probably not be generally followed, since each manufacturing chemist has his own way of making them; but . . . *the drugs in them must respond to all the official characters and tests.*" The reason for the exclusion of these forms is exactly the reason why Pharmacopœias came into existence, and the stricture which is italicised constitutes a recognition which manufacturers would be thankful not to have in some instances.

THE M.R. ON THE S.C.I.

A saloon carriage was attached to the 5.40 Midland express on Tuesday evening for Nottingham labelled "Engaged: Chemical Industry." The industrious chemists went by it, but the common people on the platform who read the ticket and watched them could not agree whether they were the C.A. or the E.C.U. out for a holiday. It is alleged that some of them practised the art of intoning on the way down.

THE CAMPHOR HABIT.

Do chemists often come across customers who are addicted to spirit-of-camphor drinking? We ask the question because

Dr. W. H. Spurgin, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, writes to the *British Medical Journal* stating that camphor, either alone or in the form of spirit, is frequently partaken of, especially by females, for colds, *later on for the exhilarating effect obtained* (italics ours). He gives three instances, rather serious cases of camphor-poisoning; but is it "a habit"?

INSURANCE UNDER THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.

The Printers' Insurance Federation have arranged with a leading insurance company to issue to members of that Association unrestricted policies under the Workmen's Compensation Act at a special rate not exceeding 5s. per 100*l.*, and probably lower, provided that the total wages of those insuring amount to 100,000*l.* per annum. In other words, a firm paying 10,000*l.* per annum in wages can be entirely protected not only under this Act, but also under that of 1880 and at common law, for a payment of 25*l.* a year.

DRUG COMPANIES COMBINE.

It looks as if the drug companies have a presentiment of evil times at hand. Under "New Companies" this week will be found the record of the registration of a limited Association formed "to support the character, status, and interests of companies carrying on the business of chemists and druggists." It was almost a pity not to add "and also for the purpose of vilifying the character, destroying the status, and damaging the interests of other people who venture without our sublime consent to carry on the same business." The Association is to serve its constituents by parliamentary action, by prosecuting and defending legal proceedings, and by providing its members "with legal and other advice." If they want some of the latter commodity they can get it, guaranteed of the best quality and at rates which defy competition, from 42 Cannon Street.

ARSENIC IN WOOL.

Mr. John H. Pearse, President of the Kidderminster Chamber of Commerce, makes a startling revelation in the *Lancet* regarding the presence of arsenic in wool. He says that it is nearly if not quite impossible to buy any sheep's wool (home or foreign grown) which does not contain 0.0009 per cent. of arsenic—that is the maximum quantity allowed by the Swedish Government. This arises from the fact that all sheep-growers are obliged at certain seasons to dip their sheep in a special chemical preparation to keep the animals healthy and in good order, and it is admitted that all effective-sheep dips contain arsenic. Messrs. Cooper & Nephew, of Berkhamstead, state that they supply dip sufficient each year for one-fourth the sheep in the entire world, and Mr. Pearse understands that it is their opinion that one-half the woollen fabrics worn in England are made with Cooper-dipped (that is, arsenical-dipped) wools. The arsenic from the dip clings so tenaciously to the wool-fibre that even the two or three scourings with hot water, soap, and alkali, together with the various other treatments and manipulations of carding, combing, spinning, dyeing, and weaving, which the wool or yarn goes through before it becomes finished cloth, fail to destroy or get rid of the drug. Mr. Pearse's object in calling attention to the matter is that he may get advice from medical men as to the maximum quantity of arsenic which might be permitted in wool without injury to the health. The Swedish Government's regulation hampers English wool-manufacturers who do trade with Sweden, and Mr. Pearse mentions that "the Swedish Government have condemned a heavy carpet because it contained one-thousandth part of a grain of arsenic in 16 square inches—that is, 1 gr. (possibly in a completely non-volatile form) in a piece of carpet 10 feet square." It cannot be said that any compound of arsenic in a carpet is "non-volatile," in the sense that it will remain in the carpet and not get into the air and be breathed. The latter it will do, just as wool itself is found in the air we breathe.

Westminster Wisdom.

THE PHARMACY ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

In the House of Lords, on Monday, July 11, the Pharmacy Acts Amendment Bill, which is in charge of the Earl of Hardwicke, entered the Committee stage, and, there being no amendments,

The Earl of Morley (Chairman of Committees) reported the measure to the House without amendments.

Upon this Bill coming on Tuesday before the Grand Committee of the House of Lords, presided over by the Earl of Morley,

The Lord Chancellor directed attention to the fact that the Pharmacy Acts did not cover the case of drug-stores



THE EARL OF HARDWICKE.

(Photo by Walery, Regent Street, W.)

carried on by companies or corporations, and he suggested that its scope should be extended so as to deal with these. The Courts had decided that the word "person" in the Pharmacy Acts meant a natural person, and not a corporation, and the common-sense view of the question required that companies should be treated just in the same way as individuals.

Lord Herschell supported this contention, and quoted a case which had been brought under his notice, in which a man and his family formed themselves into a company, with the object of carrying on the business of a chemist and druggist while avoiding the statutory obligation.

The Earl of Hardwicke, admitting the cogency of this reasoning, promised, as the member in charge of the Bill, to bring up on report stage an amendment to give effect to the suggestion of the Lord Chancellor.

The Bill passed through Committee without further discussion.

GERMAN AND ENGLISH CHEMICAL PATENTS.

In the House of Commons on July 8, Mr. Cawley asked the President of the Board of Trade whether he had yet considered the report of the referee appointed to inquire into the application for a licence made by an English firm to work in England a patent granted to a German firm; whether he was aware that a patent for the same discovery was refused by the German Patent Office; whether, seeing that the English manufacturer had been put to an expense of 1,800*l.* in bringing a test case at the request of the Board, they would pay the expenses; and whether he was prepared to propose some legislation by which English manufacturers might compete on more equal terms with their foreign competitors in the English markets.

Mr. Ritchie: More than one application for an order for the granting of a licence has been before the Board of Trade. If the hon. member refers to the case of *Levenstein v. Meister, Lucius & Co.*, the reply to the first paragraph of the question is, of course, in the affirmative. The order has, I

believe, been issued to-day. I am not in a position to say whether a patent for the same discovery was refused by the German Patent Office, and I decline to admit that the English patent-law gives an advantage to foreigners. The hon. member does not state what sort of legislation he contemplates, and I can only, therefore, say that if it should in any respect be found necessary to amend our law on the subject of patents, I will bring the matter before Parliament. The Board of Trade are certainly not prepared to pay the expenses of the application, and I demur to the statement that the case was in any respect a test case brought forward at the request of the Board of Trade.

THE IRISH GOVERNMENT AND THE POISONS ACT.

In the House of Commons, on Monday, Mr. Field (St. Patrick's, Dublin) asked whether attention had been drawn to the fact that an inquest was held at Belfast on May 18 on the body of a man named Robert Patterson, who, it was proved, was supplied with a scheduled poison at an establishment in Mill Street owned by the Ulster Chemists (Limited); that he was given the poison without the statutory requirement of knowledge by or introduction to the seller or the signing of the book kept for the registration of such sales, contrary to the provisions of the Poisons (Ireland) Act; and why, although the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland drew the attention of the Inspector General of Constabulary to the matter, he had replied that it had been decided they would not undertake prosecutions of this kind.

The Chief Secretary: The facts of the case mentioned in the question were fully investigated by the Government, who were advised that it was not one in which the Crown should institute a prosecution, and that proceedings in the case should be taken by the Pharmaceutical Society, if so advised.

THE POISONOUS SUBSTANCES BILL.

In the House of Commons, on Tuesday, Mr. Heywood Johnstone (Horsham) asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether it was intended to proceed with the Poisonous Substances Bill this Session, having regard to the widespread objection to that measure by chemists and druggists throughout the country.

Mr. A. Balfour postponed his answer for the moment, but later in the evening, in the course of a general statement as to the progress of business in the House, said the Poisonous Substances Bill was one of the measures which there seemed no prospect of being able to pass into law during this Session, and which would consequently not be proceeded with. (Hear, hear.)

PETROLEUM COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The final meeting of the Petroleum Committee was held on July 13, and the report agreed to was laid on the table of the House of Commons.

The recommendations are briefly as follows:—

1. To secure legislative control for petroleum generally, and admixtures of the same with other substances, certain heavy oils being exempted.
2. To adopt a flash-point—viz., 100° (Abel close test)—as the dividing line between petroleum oil and petroleum spirit.
3. To provide that, with the following exemptions, petroleum oil shall be kept only on premises registered under the Act, and petroleum spirit only on premises licensed under the Act.

EXEMPTIONS.

- Spirit not exceeding 5 gals.
When oil and spirit kept together and not exceeding 5 gals. of spirits and 40 gals. of oil.
Oil (for private use only) not exceeding 130 gals.
4. To provide that registered premises shall be at safe and suitable distances from "protected works," such as dwelling-houses, churches, schools, or any such building or place as the local authority with whom the premises are registered may specify in a notice served upon the occupier of the premises and require to be treated as a protected work; to limit the amount of oil (subject to the exemption in 3) on registered premises; generally to make regulations for registered premises.
 5. To establish a system of licensing for the storage of petroleum spirit (subject to the exemption in 3) in all cases; and for the storage of petroleum oil in cases where it cannot be conveniently kept under registration, and generally to regulate licensed places.
 6. To make regulations for the conveyance of petroleum oil

and petroleum spirit, and the marking of the vessels containing the same.

7. To regulate the hawking of petroleum oil and petroleum spirit.

8. To regulate the keeping and use of petroleum for the purpose of motive-power.

9. To provide for adequate and efficient supervision and administration by local authorities.

10. To provide an efficient system of testing.

11. That in any legislation affecting petroleum, adequate provision shall be taken to prevent overflow, wherever mineral oil is stored in populous places.

12. To provide that an investigation be made into explosions or fires which may occur in connection with inflammable liquids.

In regard to the precautions to be adopted for the prevention of accidents with lamps, the conclusions are that the number of lamp-accidents has not increased in proportion to the increase of the number of lamps used, and that legislative restrictions on oil below 100° flash-point would have the effect of preventing the use of such oil for domestic and trade purposes, and that accidents could only be entirely prevented by adopting a 120° flash-point, and that the effect of such legislation would raise the price of the oil to the consumer. It is further recommended that statutory powers be granted to enable the Secretary of State to issue orders affecting the manufacture and sale of lamps, and suggest that information be spread among the public as to the nature of petroleum and the management of lamps.

Dr. Attfield writes to the *Times* this (Thursday) morning pointing out that the proposed change in flash-point is not of great magnitude, but is simply a restoration of the legal standard of safety to its original figure, from which it was lowered by indirect methods.

A CHANGE NOT WANTED.

In the House of Commons, on Monday, Mr. Mildmay (Totnes Division of Devonshire) asked the Secretary to the Treasury whether the Postmaster-General would consider the advisability of giving orders that the 1½*d.* patent-medicine stamp should be issued perforated and gummed instead of as at present.

Mr. Hanbury: This question has more than once been considered by the Board of Inland Revenue, but they find that there is great objection to stamps of a long narrow shape, such as the medicine-stamp, being perforated, because they cannot be separated except slowly and with great care without being torn. So far as the Board are aware, those who use these stamps on any large scale prefer to cut and gum them for themselves, and in these circumstances the Board do not see their way to adopt the hon. member's suggestions.

Marriages.

BURNETT—GIBBS.—On July 6, at Bristol, Albert E. Burnett, chemist and druggist, Clifton, to Ethel Gwyer Gibbs, of Bishopston.

HORSEY—HORSEY.—On June 15, at St. Matthew's, Norwich, by the Rev. H. Boyden, Vicar, Herbert Vaughan Horsey, chemist and druggist, Southampton, to Jesse Elizabeth Horsey, of Norwich.

SYMINGTON—CLARK.—At Mathers' Hotel, Dundee, on July 5, by the Rev. A. C. Mackenzie, Frec St. David's, James Martin Symington, chemist and druggist, Inverness, to Kate Gordon, second daughter of Mr. Hugh Clark, late Inspector Highland Railway, Inverness.

TIRRELL—BROADBERY.—On July 6, at Liverpool, by the Rev. A. C. Laybourne, John Tirrell, son of the late John Tirrell, chemist, Hanley, to Nellie, only daughter of the late William Broadbery, of Retford.

Deaths.

BATTERSBY.—At Dolphinholme, near Lancaster, on July 3, Mr. Samuel Battersby (late of the firm of Battersby & Parkers, chemists and grocers, Cheapside, Lancaster). Aged 57.

BAYLY.—Recently, at Waltham Cross, Mr. C. J. Bayly, chemist and druggist. Aged 77 years. Deceased had carried on a successful business in the town for about half a century.

CRANSTON.—On June 28, Mr. John Cranston, chemist, Bank Top, Darlington. Aged 69.

GIBBS.—On July 7, at his residence, Springfield, Upper Clapton, Mr. David Aspland Gibbs, the head of the well-known firm of D. & W. Gibbs, City Soapworks, London. Mr. Gibbs, who had attained the age of 85, inherited from his father the business with which he had been so long connected, for it was established as far back as 1712. The father was well known in City circles, for he held the position of Bridgemaster to the Corporation for many years. By unrivalled business capacity, and with the aid of his



partner and brother, the late Mr. Gibbs soon brought the firm to the very front rank of the trade, a position it has held ever since, for, notwithstanding Mr. Gibbs had ceased to take any active part in the business for many years, he had left its conduct to capable hands in the persons of his sons and nephews, under whose management it continues its career of success. Though a busy man in the City, Mr. Gibbs found time to concern himself in other matters. He took a lively interest in the Volunteer movement of 1859, and, as many old comrades remember, held with distinction for a good number of years the captaincy of the Clapton Company of the 2nd Tower Hamlets R.V. Mr. Gibbs was also a very old member of the Gunmakers' Company, in which at various times he held all the most important offices, and took part in their deliberations until almost the very last. The assemblage at Abney Park Cemetery last Monday of old friends, inclusive of employés, past and present, to pay the last tribute of respect to one whom only to know was to love and revere, in itself demonstrated the esteem in which he was held by all.

HOPE.—On May 6, Mr. Edwin Hope, Wellington (N.Z.). Mr. Hope, who had been for three years dispenser to Wellington Hospital, left New Zealand in April on a voyage to England, but died at sea on R.M.S. *Arcadia* from influenza.

SOWRAY.—On July 10, at Liverpool, Robert Duck Sowray, chemist and druggist. Aged 60.

WOODYATT.—On July 3, at Market Place, Macclesfield, Mr. Richard Woodyatt, chemist and druggist. Aged 60. The deceased gentleman was one of the oldest tradesmen of the town having been in business in Macclesfield for forty years.

The Poisonous Substances Bill.

CHEMISTS will have observed with the greatest satisfaction that on Tuesday last Mr. Balfour announced on behalf of the Government that it was not intended to proceed with the Poisonous Substances Bill this Session. We shall be much surprised if anything like it is ever brought before Parliament again by the Privy Council. The unanimous opposition of chemists and druggists to the Government's proposal, and especially to the ungenerous introduction of such a measure without any consultation with the representatives of pharmacy, has, we are told, made a great impression on members of the House of Commons; and with further knowledge we have come to believe that it would have been very doubtful whether the Bill could have been forced through Parliament, even if the Government had insisted. We have been in direct communication with several members, and correspondents have sent us quite a number of sympathetic letters they have received from their representatives on both sides of the House. The most definite we have seen is one addressed to a constituent by Mr. W. O. Clough, M.P. for Portsmouth, who wrote as follows on July 11:—

Poisonous Substances Bill.

SIR,—I have your letter of July 9, forwarding me Supplement to THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST of July 2, on the above Bill. I also carefully note the contents of your letter. The injustice which will (perhaps quite unintentionally) be the outcome of this Bill, if it passes the Commons, is well before the members of the House of Commons. There is a general feeling of surprise that this Bill ever passed the House of Lords. You need have no reason to fear that the Bill will go through the Commons this Session, anyway; and there will be time given for those, like yourself, to combine, through your Society, in opposing it in the future. If it should, however, come before the House of Commons, I shall join in the opposition which is to be offered to it; and I do not think you can have any fear of its passing this Session.

Can you tell me, for my own information, how it is that the Pharmaceutical Society is silent on the matter? I have received nothing whatever from that Society; surely it ought to move in the matter. I suppose it has funds at its disposal; and how can it better employ them than in defending its members' rights?

Yours truly,
(Signed) W. O. CLOUGH.

Of course, Mr. Clough was promptly advised of the action of the Pharmaceutical Society.

It is now, in our opinion, of the first importance that the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society should again propose to the Privy Council the addition of carbolic acid to the schedule. That body has formally recognised that the safety of the public demands some interference; it has no doubt perceived that its own scheme is hopelessly impracticable, and it is the duty of the two Councils to exercise the powers conferred upon them jointly by the statute. If the Privy Council should once more refuse to fulfil the evident intention of Parliament, the Pharmaceutical Society would be justified in taking aggressive action, which they could do with a very fair prospect of success.

The movements of the past week in reference to the Poisonous Substances Bill have now, of course, only a historic interest, but it is right we should place them on record. We append a copy of the circular issued by the Pharmaceutical Society to chemists with a copy of reasons against the Bill enclosed to send to members of Parliament:—

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN,
17 Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C.,
July 7, 1898.

DEAR SIR,—On the other side is copy of a Bill which has passed through the House of Lords and is now in the House of Commons. The object of the Bill is to enable the Privy Council to make regulations for the keeping and selling the poisonous

substances which are enumerated in the Schedule to the Bill, additions to which may from time to time be made by the Privy Council. These poisonous substances are to be sold by any person, provided the regulations for keeping and selling them, made by the Government Department, are complied with.

The principle of legislation affecting the sale of poisons has hitherto been that the safety of the public is best secured by confining such sales to persons specially educated to deal with these dangerous substances, and the law requires that every person who deals in them must show his fitness to do so by passing a stringent examination.

The provisions set forth in Clause I. of the annexed Bill are in violation of the above-mentioned principle, and cannot therefore be regarded as conducive to the public interest, and they are not in the interest of the persons who have obtained the qualification which has hitherto been held to be necessary for the public safety.

The effect of Clause II. of the Bill is to hand over to a Government Department the making of regulations as to the keeping, selling, and dispensing of poisons by chemists and druggists.

It is deemed desirable to take steps to prevent this Bill from becoming law, and I have to ask you to communicate with your representative in Parliament without delay, urging him to use his influence to oppose the further progress of the Bill.

I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,
WALTER HILLS, President.

P.S.—The enclosed "Reasons" may perhaps save you writing at any great length to your member.

REASONS AGAINST "THE POISONOUS SUBSTANCES BILL."

The law at present requires that for the public safety "poisons" shall be placed under the care of "chemists and druggists," who have been specially educated and trained, and who have demonstrated their capability to undertake the responsibility by having passed the stringent examinations required of them by statute.

The provisions of the Poisonous Substances Bill involve the substitution of "regulations" for personal qualification, and the abandonment of the principle which has hitherto obtained.

This is contrary to public policy, and inflicts an injustice upon those who have been ascertained, by examinations approved by the Privy Council, to possess a competent practical knowledge of potent drugs and medicaments.

The Bill, although ostensibly proposing to deal with the regulation of "poisonous substances," would actually effect the repeal of a portion of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, and would make the practice of pharmacy in Great Britain subject to departmental experiment in regulations. There is already in existence a class of persons of high technical training and scientific knowledge (chemists and druggists) specially fitted to dispense, compound, and retail potent and dangerous substances, and if there is any real desire to protect the British public from the indiscriminate distribution of carbolic acid and similar articles by thoughtless or ignorant persons, the means lie ready to hand in Section II. of the Pharmacy Act, 1868. The Privy Council has been many times urged to approve the addition of carbolic acid to the schedule of statutory poisons, but has for some reason or other always refrained from so doing.

In Ireland, however, that article has been officially declared to be a "poison," and can only be sold by qualified persons. It is not unreasonable to contend that the people of Great Britain have a right to an equal measure of protection. There can be no justification for saying that what is a necessary safeguard in one part of the kingdom would be a "trade monopoly" in another, nor is there any more warrant for free trade in carbolic acid than there is for the untrammelled sale of arsenic.

Labelling alone is practically worthless as a safeguard against accidental poisoning, and, in fact, a too general use of the word "poison" is more likely than not to defeat its own end, and the warning it is intended to convey would probably be weakened in efficacy by too great familiarity. The safety of the public lies chiefly in the competency of the vendor, and not in the wording of a label.

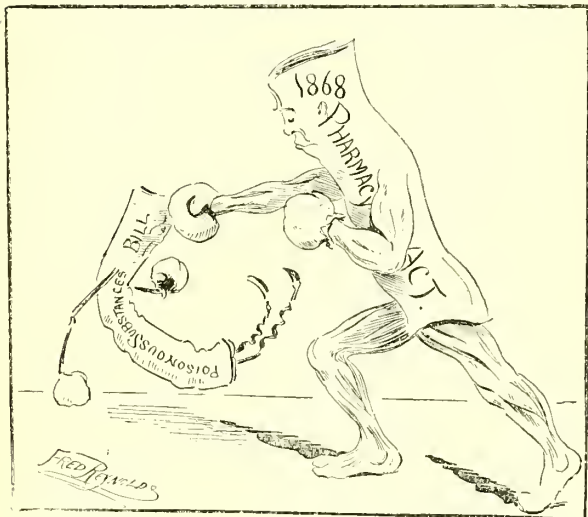
The Poisonous Substances Bill does nothing to ensure real security.

We have reason to believe that a large number of chemists used the enclosure in the manner suggested. They were rightly not deterred from doing this because they had previously sent our circular to their M.P.'s. The second communication helped to show the M.P. that the trade was in earnest.

The "Reasons" seem to us effectively and concisely stated. The Privy Council could not have passed their Bill through the House of Commons without replying to them, and there was little chance of their being able to give a convincing answer. The Bill was too inherently weak to be fit for the struggle for life. If it came to be a contest between the Pharmacy Act of 1868, as suggested by our artist (and this

is the strictly logical way to look at it), we should have advised chemists with a good deal of confidence to put their money on the "old 'un."

The report of their last meeting shows that the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland were taking similar



action to that adopted in London. The assistance of a few Irish members in the House of Commons in such a contest would have been of inestimable value.

MEETING AT MANCHESTER.

A MEETING of pharmacists of Manchester and district was held under the auspices of the Manchester Pharmaceutical Defence Association at the Victoria Hotel, Manchester, on July 7, to consider the provisions of the above Bill. Mr. Walter Gibbons presided, and there was a good attendance.

Mr. Pilkington Sargeant (Secretary) read letters of apology for absence from Mr. J. F. Price, County Coroner, and Mr. H. Smith (Sale).

The Chairman said the Bill in its present form constituted a danger, not only to themselves as chemists, but to the public at large. It would create an undue familiarity with the word "poison," which constituted a grave danger. There was also a proposal to give to the Privy Council, which had no practical knowledge of the handling of poisons, power to impose regulations on a body of men who had shown by their past records that regulations were not necessary, and which might become most obnoxious and make the dispensing-business next to impossible. He thought it would have been better if the Bill had been called a "Dangerous Substances Bill" and had directed that these should be labelled "dangerous substances," and not "poisons." Concentrated mineral acids were poisonous in a sense, but only in their concentrated form. It was making the word "poison" a frivolous term. There was one substance in the Bill—carbolic acid—which must be specially referred to. On four different occasions the Pharmaceutical Council had recommended the Privy Council to add carbolic acid to Part II. of the present poisons schedule, and on three occasions they had absolutely declined to have anything to do with it. On the fourth occasion the Privy Council said they were about to bring in a Bill by which restrictions would be put upon the sale of this acid, but they had not kept their word. The present proposal was not a restriction; it was a regulation, which was a very different thing. The whole body of coroners throughout the country were at one with them in opposing this Bill. If it became law, the familiar ginger-beer bottle would be used as before, and, although the label "Poison" might be put upon it, children who could not read would still be mistaking the liquid for a more innocent one, and the usual fatal cases would occur.

Mr. George S. Woolley said the Bill was crude, inefficient, and unfair, and in his opinion it ought to be opposed *in toto*. He believed the Pharmaceutical Council were organising opposition to it. Two principles were outraged in this Bill.

The opening clause of their Act laid it down for the protection of the public that the only proper safeguard was the qualification of the vendor of poisons. That principle was altogether outraged, and it seemed to him that should the Bill become law the Pharmacy Act of 1868 would become non-effective. That an uneducated person should be allowed to handle potent substances like carbolic acid, and that such a Bill should be advocated by the Chancellor of the Victoria University, was astounding. The other principle outraged was this: Over thirty years ago, shortly after the passing of the Act of 1868, the Pharmaceutical Society was called upon to issue regulations for the sale of poisons. Section 1 of the Pharmacy Act provided that regulations for keeping poisons might be issued by the Pharmaceutical Council, and they had issued conditions in the form of recommendations. They had given prominence to these, and for thirty years the chemists of the country had conducted their business in a most satisfactory manner. The few accidents that had occurred among the very numerous transactions which they had conducted in the sale of poisons was ample proof that it was not reasonable or proper that a body of educated men should have the proposed regulations thrust upon them. (Hear, hear.) The number of accidents which had happened through the carelessness of chemists was marvellously small. Chemists were an educated body who had passed stringent examinations, and yet according to this Bill they were not capable of placing poisons on their proper shelves. The Bill would involve inspection. It was an outrage on the chemists of the country. That particular clause annoyed him more than the first one, but the first one seemed to him to practically repeal the Act of 1868. It demolished the educational qualification entirely. That meeting should call upon their members of Parliament to oppose the passing of such a Bill, and in making that observation he could not help directing their attention to the admirable statement on the subject of the Bill which had been issued by THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST in their last number. It was a statement which was thoroughly sound in every particular and it was opposed to the Bill in every direction. He thought it would be very proper for the meeting to pass some simple resolution opposing the Bill as being inefficient, crude, and unfair. (Applause.)

Mr. T. Pilkington Sargeant said there did not seem to be any reason why such a Bill should be introduced. There might be a reason for regulating the sale of the mineral acids named in the Bill, for these were largely used by tin-plate-workers and others, but carbolic acid was not used in the arts and manufactures. It was used to a large extent as a disinfectant, and as such was mostly bought in large quantities. It could be obtained from a chemist and druggist. It had been said that should carbolic acid be placed in the second schedule it would raise the price, but no chemist, knowing the competition in trade, could think that for a moment. It would not materially affect the price. He did not see why oxalic acid should be in Clause 2 any more than carbolic acid, which was the more dangerous of the two.

Mr. Woodruff said he did not see that there should be two classes of poisons. He quite agreed that the whole Bill was objectionable, and he opposed it *in toto*. Mr. Gibbons had pointed out that perhaps carbolic acid should be singled out and placed in the 1868 schedule. He (the speaker), however, thought it would be better to schedule the whole list. The Lord President talked about creating a trade-monopoly. That was a great injustice to them. What chemists had advocated was the safeguarding of the public, and the public would be far from safeguarded by the passing of the present Bill.

Mr. Duncalf thought the Bill was insulting to chemists and druggists, and should be thrown out.

Mr. Charles Swinn said the Bill should be opposed tooth and nail. Coroners would be useful allies in this matter, and it would be wise to secure their co-operation.

Mr. W. Kirkby said he could not help feeling—although he had no pleasure in saying it—that they were about to suffer some inconvenience on account of the supineness on the part of the Pharmaceutical Society in the years immediately following the 1868 Act. He hoped they would not make the mistake of saying that they would have no restrictions whatever. Rather should they conform to such regulations as were consonant with their position as educated

men. He was surprised that the Duke of Devonshire should press forward such a crude Bill—crude in the extreme. He trusted they had sufficient influence to secure the framing of a better Bill. He moved—

That this meeting pledges itself to aid the Pharmaceutical Society in every possible way to oppose or amend the Poisonous Substances Bill now before Parliament, and that copies of this resolution be sent to members of Parliament, together with a statement of the objections to the Bill.

Mr. Pidd seconded the motion.

Mr. J. Taylor (Bolton) said he supported the resolution very cordially. It might be said that the Government was not interfering with their privileges in enabling other persons to handle dangerous substances. He did not suppose that people who did not sell dangerous substances would begin to do so, but it gave those who did sell them a legal status. The fact was the Bill was a whittling away of the rights and privileges of the chemist, and it meant dissolution. The difference between qualified men and men who went into the trade as a matter of business would disappear from the public mind altogether. The result would be that the authority which called them into being would have started a process by which they would go out of existence. These points needed to be brought before members of the House of Commons. Immediately on receipt of the excellent inset in the last issue of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST he sent it to Mr. George Harwood, one of the members of Parliament for Bolton, and asked him to study it, observing that it seemed a dangerous departure from the principle of the Act of 1863. Mr. Harwood had written promising to give attention to the Bill. The grievance of the chemists seemed a real one in the public interest. They only needed to let their case tell its own tale, and they would find that they would be well supported. In Clause 2 of the Bill the Privy Council took power to regulate the sale of poisons, but that would not take away the power of the Pharmaceutical Council to make regulations, and he was not sure that that would be an utterly bad thing. Mr. Woolley had referred to it, and to the provision that they must submit themselves to inspection; but others had to submit to inspection, and if inspection were insisted upon it would deter many small dealers from meddling with these things. It seemed to him that the Pharmaceutical Council could go to the Privy Council and say, "Here is a case for negotiation; we have had an experience of over thirty years in the administration of the Pharmacy Act; you have had no experience, and you know nothing about these matters; but we agree that some of these poisons need regulations, and some of them restrictions, and let us see if we cannot regulate the danger to which the public is subject, and perpetuate the principles underlying all previous Pharmacy Acts."

Mr. Woolley, in supporting the resolution, said he was rather sorry Mr. Taylor did not agree with him in reference to the second clause of the Bill. He still maintained that clause was most objectionable. That an educated chemist and druggist should have to submit to inspection on account of a few articles in his stock was an indignity which it was not easy to contemplate with equanimity. (Hear, hear.)

The resolution was carried unanimously, and the meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

DEWSBURY CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION.

A SPECIAL meeting of this Association was held on July 11, Mr. G. Walker in the chair, to discuss the Poisonous Substances Bill. A resolution was passed declaring that the Bill was a dangerous and unwarranted interference with the Pharmacy Act 1868, being retrograde in principle, ambiguous in detail, and not calculated to achieve its main purpose—namely, the safety of the public. It was also resolved that a deputation from the Association should wait upon the Borough member.

INTERVIEW WITH AN M.P.

A DEPUTATION from the North-East Lancashire Chemists' Association waited on Mr. W. H. Hornby, the senior member for Burnley, on Wednesday, to ask him to oppose the Poisonous Substances Bill. The deputation, which was introduced by Mr. Christopher Parkinson, consisted of Mr.

W. Wells (Vice-President of the Association), Mr. Garland (the senior pharmaceutical chemist in the district), Mr. R. Lord Gifford, Mr. Howarth, and Mr. Eatough. A lengthy conversation took place between the hon. member and the deputation, who laid before Mr. Hornby the grounds of objection to the Bill. Mr. Hornby expressed extreme surprise at many of the facts put before him, and said the Pharmaceutical Society and the trade generally must have been guilty of great apathy in the past to permit the grievances which had been described to him to exist so long. It was unfortunate, he said, that action had not been taken before the Bill entered the House of Lords, instead of waiting till a powerful Minister had been committed to it and one of the Houses had sanctioned it. It would need all their efforts now to defeat the measure, which could only be done by chemists throughout the country laying the case before their representatives without delay. He advised the deputation to prepare a petition, not only to Parliament, but one to the members individually also; and, in conclusion, he promised to give his utmost attention to the subject. [And the papers of that morning had announced the withdrawal of the Bill!—Ed. C. & D.]

THE MEDICAL PRESS ON THE POISONS BILL.

WE fail to see how this Bill is likely to afford much more protection to the public against the indiscriminate sale of poisons than at present obtains. It does not at any rate increase the scope of action under the Pharmacy Act, which so far as it has related to the poisons placed within the schedule has worked not with that completeness which might be desired but still with a fair measure of success. According to the provisions of the Bill carbolic acid (and with it its homologues), which by reason of the ease with which it can be purchased at oil-shops has been responsible for an enormous increase in the number of self-inflicted and, we need not add, most painful deaths, is still to be procured from any class of shop where the shopkeeper chooses to sell it, with, however, the restriction that the purchase is to be labelled distinctly with the word "poison" and with the name and address of the person selling the substance. Such a clause provides very well against the risks of accidental poisoning, but it does nothing for the deliberate suicide. Indeed, it only advertises the fact, it seems to us, that certain mixtures are poisonous. Surely the principle of scheduling certain substances as legally-recognised poisons is a sound one to go upon if any hope at all is to be entertained of ever putting a stop to the indiscriminate sale of poisons. The seller should be registered and should be a person who knows exactly the nature of the commodity with which he is dealing, and should possess an intelligence which will enable him to an extent to discriminate between purchasers who require the substance for a wrong or a right purpose. But it is urged that if the sale of such things as carbolic acid, disinfectants, and weed-killers, poisonous commodities which are in request every day, was restricted to persons possessing a proper qualification it would cause considerable inconvenience to the public by imposing a difficulty in the way of obtaining these extremely necessary articles, and, again, that it would mean the transfer of a source of business and profit from the ordinary shopkeeper to the druggist. In the interests of the public why should not this be so, when instance upon instance is on record of an ordinary tradesman having supplied with disastrous results carbolic acid in cups, ginger-beer bottles, black bottles, or any receptacle commonly used for containing beverages? The fact is that carbolic acid is a comparatively recent addition to commercial commodities, and its introduction on the market occurred some time after the passing of the Pharmacy Act, as otherwise without doubt it would have been included as a scheduled poison. We do not attach much force to the argument that such restrictions would lead to an abandonment of sanitary measures by the public owing to the *modus operandi* which would be enjoined in order to effect a purchase. There are plenty of excellent disinfectants which are comparatively non-poisonous, indeed, which would be practically free from harm; but carbolic acid is a poison of a powerful kind, and it is monstrous that its sale to the public has hitherto been as unrestricted as that of sugar. If a really protective measure is to become law the Bill introduced by the Duke

of Devonshire and now read a second time in the House of Lords must be very seriously altered and amended. Otherwise the undoubted good which the present Pharmacy Act is doing will be to a great extent nullified.—*Lancet*.

The Poisons Bill has come down from the House of Lords after practically no discussion in the Upper Chamber. It is not likely to receive the same inadequate consideration in the Commons. Literature and correspondence are already reaching members, and the chemists and druggists are on the warpath, as they regard the Bill as an infringement of the Pharmacy Acts. Certainly any relaxation of the law with regard to the sale of poisons will be jealously watched, and the Bill, if possible, amended in the direction of greater stringency.—*Brit. Med. Journal*.

The *Medical Press and Circular* of July 6 strongly supports our opposition, and concludes an article as follows:—

On the whole, the Bill can arouse only feelings of profound disappointment, and we trust that when it reaches the House of Commons it will receive more careful consideration and closer criticism than it appears to have been accorded in the Upper House.

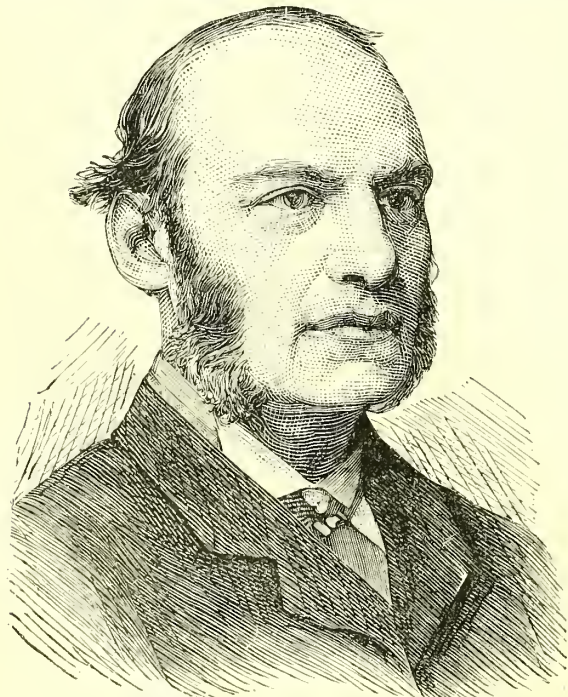
THE LORDS AND THE POISONS BILL.

AN OPEN LETTER.

To the Right Honourable Baron Herschell, P.C., G.C.B.,
House of Lords.

SIR,—You will observe that I do not commence this letter with the term of courtesy to which you are accustomed, if not entitled. I will tell you why before I finish, but I beg you to understand at the outset that I do not intend any disrespect.

I wish to address you on the subject of the Poisonous Substances Bill, which passed its third reading in the House of Lords on July 4. On that occasion you alone among the



LORD HERSCHELL. (Photo by Russell, 17 Baker Street, W.)

peers showed the slightest interest in the measure. With the exception of the Duke of Devonshire, who very briefly justified it before the second reading, no one except yourself was concerned sufficiently about this Bill to even ask a question respecting it.

I wish to give you all the credit that can be attributed to you for going so far as this; at the same time, you must permit me to remark that your inquiry showed either that

you had not taken the trouble to read the Bill, or that, if you had read it, you had not understood it. Which theory shall I adopt?

Why have you a seat in the House of Lords, Lord Herschell? I suppose in recognition of your distinguished talents as a lawyer. It was, I imagine, considered that your assistance in framing laws would be so precious that there was reason for setting you apart from other men, placing yourself and your descendants on a pedestal of honour, and conferring upon you such marks of distinction as the nation had it in its power to bestow.

You served your country, I am aware, as member of Parliament, Solicitor-General, and subsequently as Lord Chancellor. You were at least fairly paid for your services in your official capacity, and I have some impression that you have since been rewarded with other gifts. I may be wrong in this, but the point is immaterial. My purpose is to show that in return for the position the nation has placed you in you owe us the not very onerous duty of at least scrutinising the projects of law brought before your Chamber before you allow them to be placed on the statute-book.

I cannot think you fulfilled this duty in regard to the Poisonous Substances Bill. The question you asked was one which even a layman would not have put if he had read the Bill, and was inexcusable from one of the most famous lawyers of the generation. Moreover, you cannot be unaware of the existence of the Pharmacy Act, nor altogether unacquainted with its provisions. You must have seen, if you had studied the Duke of Devonshire's Bill, that it was at direct variance with the principle of the older statute. You may, for all I know, disapprove of the Pharmacy Act. If so, you ought, long ere this, to have proposed its repeal.

Again, did you notice any of the very obvious flaws in the Bill with which you have formally expressed your contentment? It provides, for instance, that the seller of any of the poisonous substances scheduled in it shall label that substance not only with the word "poison," but also with "the name and address of the seller." I need not remind such a learned lawyer as yourself of the judgment of the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice in the case of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain v. Wheeldon, which made it clear that, unless it was expressly stipulated to the contrary, the seller was the person who actually conducted the sale. The Privy Council Bill, therefore, requires that whenever an assistant or an apprentice in a grocer's or an oilman's shop shall sell any of these poisonous substances he shall label it with his own name and address; a somewhat novel state of things.

I have always been a humble admirer of the British Constitution, and at public dinners and on other occasions I have cheered the sentiment that the House of Lords was one of its bulwarks. I have been brought up to believe that one of its most important functions was to check hasty and impulsive legislation. This Bill, which seriously affects not only the 17,000 pharmacists in the United Kingdom, but also the whole of the public, was introduced into the Upper House on June 13, read a second time on June 24, passed through Committee on June 27, and read a third time on July 4. How is that for hasty?

You, Lord Herschell, are trebly responsible for this Bill—first, as a Privy Councillor; secondly, as a peer; and, thirdly, as an ex-Lord Chancellor, whose legal judgment we have a right to look for. You have declared your approval of it, and it is no longer in your power even to amend it.

I have given you my reasons for believing that you cannot have scrutinised the Bill with that care and legal wisdom which we had a right to expect from you; and if that assumption is well founded, I submit that I have shown

sufficient reason why I should not, on this occasion at least, address you as "My Law-ward."

You owe it to your own eminence that I have specially selected you for this letter. It might with almost equal reason have been addressed to any of your legal colleagues in the House of Lords.

I am, with all due respect, yours faithfully,
A PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMIST.

New Companies & Company News.

BURGONS (LIMITED).—Capital 100 000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares (50,000 5*l.*-per-cent. cumulative preference). Objects: To acquire the business carried on as "Burgon & Co.," at Manchester and elsewhere, and to carry on the business of grocers, general provision-merchants, tea and coffee merchants, chemists, druggists, wine and spirit merchants, &c. The first directors are Charles H. Scott (governing director), Alfred H. Scott, and Charles A. Scott. Registered office, India Buildings, Ackers Street, Chorlton-on-Medlock, Manchester.

RILEY MANUFACTURING COMPANY (LIMITED).—Capital 50,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire the business carried on by Charles R. Riley and Frederic G. Riley, at 256 and 258 South Lambeth Road, London, as "The Riley Manufacturing Company," and to carry on the business of soda-water and brewing engineers, builders, constructional engineers, architects, brewers, ale, beer, and cyder bottlers, aerated and mineral-water manufacturers, manufacturing and analytical chemists, &c. The first directors are F. G. Riley, C. R. Riley, and Walter Riley.

CITY CHEMICAL COMPANY OF BIRMINGHAM (LIMITED).—Capital 1,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To carry on the business of sulphuric-acid and chemical manufacturers and merchants. The first subscribers (each with one share) are:—Henry T. Staples, Old Hall, Spondon, Derby, chemist; Ham T. Ford, 66 Branston Road, Burton-on-Trent, accountant; Vernon D. Anderson, 367 Shrobnall Street, Burton-on-Trent, manager; John N. Ingram, 58 Summer Row, Birmingham, traveller; Henry Markham, 96 Prescott Street, Birmingham, brassworker; Alfred Trow, 1 Newhall Street, Birmingham, law stationer; Samuel S. Ingram, 62 Tindall Street, Balsall Heath, Birmingham, publican. Registered without articles of association. Registered office, 58 Summer Row, Birmingham.

DRUG COMPANIES' ASSOCIATION (LIMITED).—Capital 10,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To support and protect the character, status, and interests of companies carrying on the business of chemists and druggists, by parliamentary action, by prosecuting and defending legal proceedings in the interests of such companies, and by supplying such companies with legal and other advice. The first subscribers are:—Edmund Carpenter, Broad Street, Bristol, managing director of Henry Hodder & Co. (Limited) (100 shares); Wm. Inman, 48 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh, managing director of Inman's (Limited), chemists (100 shares); Wm. B. Mason, 3, 5, and 7 Guildford Street, Leeds, governing director of Taylor's Drug Company (Limited) (250 shares); Wm. Day, managing director of Day's Metropolitan Drug Company (Limited) (250 shares); Jesse Boot, Island Street, Nottingham, managing director of Boots, Cash Chemists, Western (Limited) (350 shares); John Murison, 157 High Street, Kensington, managing director of Parke's Drug-stores (Limited) (100 shares); James R. Brough, 22 and 24 Great Portland Street, W., chairman of Lewis and Burrows (Limited) (10 shares). The control of the association is vested in a managing Council. Registered office, 28 and 29 St. Swithin's Lane, London, E.C.

THE firm of Landshoff & Meyer, chemical and pharmaceutical manufacturers, Grünau, Germany, has been formed into a company.

PARKE'S DRUG-STORES (LIMITED) announce the payment of the usual half-yearly dividend on the preference shares, at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, payable on July 20.

SANITAS COMPANY (LIMITED).—Mr. C. T. Kingzett, the managing director of this company, wishes us to explain that the new Sanitas Company, the registration of which we reported last week, will continue the business of the old Sanitas Company (Limited) without any interruption. The change has been one of reconstruction only, no new shares being offered for public subscription.

SALE OF SHARES.—Messrs. Hall, Vickers & Shaw held their 497th sale of shares at Lincoln on July 8. Among the shares offered were 230 6-per-cent. cumulative preference shares of 1*l.* each, fully paid, in Boots (Limited). These were not sold, 29*s.* each being offered and 30*s.* required; and 70 ordinary shares of 1*l.* each, fully paid, in the same company, were also passed. Twenty, however, were afterwards sold at 4*l.*s. each. One hundred 6 per-cent. preference shares of 1*l.* each in Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa (Limited) were withdrawn.

BOVINE (LIMITED).—In the Companies Winding-up Court, on July 13, before Mr. Justice Wright, the petition appeared in the list of Messrs. Hancock & Corfield (Limited), who originally asked for an order for the compulsory winding-up of Bovine (Limited). It had been stated on a previous day that certain payments had been made on behalf of the company, in view of which it was desired to withdraw the petition. The matter had stood over for a week to see if any other creditors objected to this course, but, no one now appearing to oppose, the petition was dismissed.

BORAX COMPANY (LIMITED) RECONSTRUCTION SCHEME SANCTIONED.—In the Chancery Division, on July 13, Mr. Justice Wright had before him the matter of the Borax Company (Limited), in which the company and the voluntary liquidators asked the sanction of the Court to a scheme of reconstruction. The company was formed to manufacture borax, and to work concessions in Asia Minor, with a capital of 1,000,000*l.* It was said that no dividend had been paid since 1893, and last year the affairs of the company becoming worse than hitherto, a committee of debenture-holders was formed. As a result they formulated the scheme now before the Court, in which it was proposed to reduce the capital from 1,000,000*l.* to 250,000*l.* The details of the scheme have already been published, and after it had been explained at length, his Lordship sanctioned the scheme with some slight modifications.

COMPAGNIE VIMBOS FRANCO-BELGE (LIMITED).—On July 13, before Mr. Justice Wright, in the Chancery Division, Mr. Peterson, on behalf of Messrs. J. T. Grover & Co. (Limited), asked for an order for the compulsory winding-up of this company. Mr. Peterson said his clients were judgment creditors against the company for 312*l.* Part of that money had been paid off under these circumstances: On June 22 the matter came before Mr. Justice Byrne, and then, the solicitors of the company undertaking to pay 100*l.* on account of the debt, the petition stood over for a week. That amount had been paid, and on June 24 a further application was made that the matter should stand over for a fortnight in order that a reconstruction, which was said to be contemplated, might be carried out. The case accordingly stood over until that day, on the undertaking of the company not to offer any further opposition to a compulsory order if the balance of the debt were not paid within a fortnight. It had not been paid, and he accordingly asked for the order. There was no appearance on behalf of the company, and his Lordship granted the application.

A VERY RED TONGUE indicates the need of acids in the system. Five drops of dilute nitro-hydrochloric acid in water fills the want satisfactorily.

SODA-ASH.—Matters have come to a bad state in our American trade in alkali, when we import soda-ash from New York—935 sacks of the stuff were landed in London this week.

THE GERMAN DRUG TRADE is concerned at present regarding the use of the words "Vaseline" and "Lanoline." Under a new order these have recently been registered by the proprietors as trade-marks, and people who consider them to be descriptive titles are opposing them.

Correspondence.

In writing letters for publication correspondents should adopt a concise, but not abbreviated, style. They are requested to write on one side of the paper only. Letters, with or without a nom-de-plume, must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer.

Notice to Correspondents.

Queries should be written on separate pieces of paper, and the regulations printed under the sections to which they apply should be strictly observed.

"Witch-hazel."

SIR,—Undoubtedly the correct form of this word is wych-hazel, but I doubt whether the etymology of your "American journal" is tenable. Wych, according to Skeat, comes from the A.S. *wican*, to bend or give way, and means drooping or pliant. This quite sufficiently explains its application to the mountain elm, and also to the smooth-leaved elm, but not so well to the hornbeam, or the dwarf elder or danewort, to all of which, nevertheless, it has been given. There has, of course, been some confusion in the popular mind between "wych" and "witch," but, although all the elders were supposed to possess magical properties, I am not aware that this can be said of the hornbeam.

Yours, &c.,
C. C. BELL.

The Benevolent Fund.

SIR,—Your correspondent "An Assistant" is not quite correct on two points which he introduces. The first is a minor one. Mr. Hampson did not propose a resolution on the method of the election of annuitants, or I have no doubt, from the cordial manner in which his remarks were received by the meeting, that it would have been heartily seconded.

The second error is more serious, and makes the great Wesleyan Methodist Church look ridiculous to those who are not posted up in Methodist usage. No member is excluded because he does not contribute 1*l.* a week or 1*s.* a quarter. There are thousands of poor members who do not pay that amount, but are, nevertheless, welcomed, and periodically relieved out of the funds raised specially for that purpose.

I am, yours faithfully,
GEO. K. GOSSOP
(A Trustee of Wesley's Chapel,
City Road).

65 New North Road, July 12.

Growing Henbane.

SIR,—Your note in the Trade Report on hyoscyamus causes me to make my experience known. The year before last I found on a rubbish-heap outside King's Heath a healthy, vigorous henbane-plant, and I persuaded the proprietor of the ground not to disturb the plant until it had passed safely to fruit, which he did. I collected the seeds, and the following year (1897) planted them on a suitable patch of ground, and not a single plant came up. This year, on the same patch, there are about a dozen fairly vigorous plants, although no seeds have been sown; apparently the seeds of the previous year have had more favourable environments. On another patch of ground in the same garden, and apparently the same kind of soil, I sowed this year some of the same seeds of which were sown the previous year, and they came up quickly, and almost all of them have "struck." Could we conclude that climatic influences were generally against successful growing of hyoscyamus last year?

Yours faithfully,
Temple Chambers, Birmingham, F. H. ALCOCK.
July 11.

Lime-water and the Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

SIR,—The excellent reports which you have given of the proceedings in regard to my recent lime-water case will have put your readers in full possession of the facts, and I think your editorial comments last week fully and clearly point out the "case for the defence," which I presume to think in this instance is "the case for the trade." My reason for further troubling your readers on the matter is that I think it would be an advantage if a test case was contested on the following lines:—Section 18 of the F o l

and Drugs Act directs that the analyst's certificate shall take a certain form, and upon that form the analyst receives the following instruction:—

"In the case of a certificate regarding milk, butter, or any article liable to decomposition, the analyst shall specially report whether any change had taken place in the constitution of the article that would interfere with the analysis."

The question to be decided is—Does that instruction apply to such articles as lime-water and spirit of nitre? or, as your article puts it, Is the grocer to be protected when selling butter, and not the chemist when selling equally perishable articles?

You have already stated why the point is important, but I would like briefly to recapitulate the reasons.

First, the certificate is for the information of the prosecuting authorities, and where the reported deficiency was comparatively small, and the certificate stated that some change had taken place, it is unlikely the local authorities would prosecute.

Secondly, at the hearing the certificate takes the place of the analyst, in order to avoid trouble and expense. It is complete evidence for the prosecution. If the article is liable to decomposition, the defendant ought to be able to plead, in mitigation, that he had not been guilty of deliberate adulteration, and that the deficiency was due to deterioration. He would still be guilty of an offence, but a mitigated one. The Act did not intend to throw the onus of proving the change upon the defendant. It says the prosecution in their certificate must say whether or not change had taken place.

Thirdly, if the clause is applied to drugs and chemicals liable to decomposition, the inspectors will have to take greater care—and rightly so—that the article reaches the analyst in the state it was sold.

I have done what was possible to get a High Court decision, but the refusal to direct the Magistrate to state a case prevents my going further with my own case, though it in no way settles the point raised. I would be glad to take steps to organise a fund for fighting a test case, if it is thought desirable, and if a sufficient number of your readers communicate with me.

I am, yours faithfully,
W. S. GLYN-JONES.

Aveley, Purfleet, Essex, July 13.

Legal Queries.

We do not give legal opinions by post. Information regarding most legal matters in connection with pharmacy will be found in THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY, and in "Pharmacy and Poison Laws of the United Kingdom," and Alpe's "Handy-book of Medicine-stamp Duty."

234/46. *Label.*—Medicines supplied by medical men to their patients if they contain scheduled poisons need not be labelled poison nor indicate the particular poison used, but the labels must bear the name and address of the seller, and a record of the transaction must be made in a book kept by the seller for the purpose. We think the medical man who sends out medicine containing poison with labels which merely state the dose is infringing the Act.

234/33. *J. B.*—Any medicinal preparation containing alcohol becomes thereby (in the view of the Board of Inland Revenue) a compound medicine which may be rendered liable to medicine-stamp duty. This applies to the liquor hamamelidis of the B.P., and your labels would, we should think, undoubtedly render your put-up bottles liable.

237/54. *Pater.*—We do not consider service with an unregistered man carrying on dental business as a company will be accepted by any examining-board as fulfilment of "three years' mechanical dentistry under a qualified man." But, to make sure, you should ask the Registrar of the College where you propose to obtain your certificate.

239/1. *E. J. T.*—No British subject has a right to refuse to recognise farthings. If you announce an article at 4½*d.* per pint you have a right to refuse to take an order for

$\frac{1}{2}$ pint at 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ d., but if you take the order without making terms, and your customer pays you 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ d., you would not recover the extra farthing on the ground that you "do not recognise farthings."

239/2. *Manchester*.—In our opinion, a calendar month's notice is the custom of the trade.

238/52. *A. P.*—You will require a sweets-licence to sell a beef-and-malt orange-wine. A foreign wine-licence will cover it.

237/15. *Titus*.—When a tenant dies the tenancy devolves on his legal personal representatives, and they must perform the same obligations as the tenant himself. A man cannot die out of his responsibilities. If the wife and family remain in possession the executors remain liable, unless the landlord *de facto* accepts the wife as tenant by treating her as such. It is always best in case of death to write to the executors and ask them what their intentions are as to the tenancy.

237/53. *Anglo-Scot.*—Agreements in restraint of trade are always looked upon with great suspicion by the Courts, and they will not enforce such an agreement unless it is clear and unambiguous. The proper course will be to embody the clause referred to in the agreement engaging the assistant (as there must be some consideration), and such agreement must contain all the terms of the hiring. If the agreement is not under seal it will only require a 6d. stamp; if it is under seal it will require a 10s. stamp. Witnesses to the execution of the agreement are not absolutely necessary, but it is better to have a witness in case of dispute. We should say that such an agreement should be prepared by a solicitor, and by a solicitor who is conversant with the many cases that have been decided on the subject. One thing must be made perfectly clear, and that is that the agreement is limited in area, and preferably, but not absolutely necessarily, limited in time.

Miscellaneous Inquiries.

We reply to subscribers and their employes only upon subjects of interest to other readers generally. When more than one query is sent write each on a separate piece of paper.

Notice to Querists. When a sample accompanies a query full particulars regarding the origin and use of the sample must be given, and it must be distinctly labelled. Queries are not replied to by post, and those sent anonymously are disregarded.

159/96. *Forest Gate*.—Mist. Gentianæ Alkalina (Brompton Hospital):—

Potass. bicarb.	gr. x.
Tr. zingiberis	ʒij.
Inf. rhei	ʒj.
Inf. gentianæ co. ad... ..	ʒj.

M. Pro dose.

226/60. *C. G. W.*—There is no simple test for detecting animal fats in vegetable fats. It is done by noting the melting and solidifying points, the sp. gr., the saponification equivalent, and the iodine-absorption number. Compare the following:—

	Saponification equivalent	Iodine-absorption number
Lard	286 to 292	55 to 62
Compo-lard (lard with beef or mutton stearin, cocoanut oil, cottonseed oil, &c.)	—	63 to 85
Cocoanut oil	209 to 228	7 to 9
Butter	241 to 283	19 to 38
Margarine (animal fat with nut, sesame, cottonseed, cocoanut oils, &c.)	285 to 290	50 to 55

You will find particulars of the method of applying the saponification-test in Allen's "Commercial Organic Analysis."

230/18. *Menthol*.—Mentholised Eau de Cologno is prepared by adding 20 gr. menthol to 1 pint of eau de Cologno.

230/7. *W. H. I.*—We understand that substances like turmeric are sometimes administered to bantams when moulting, with the idea of influencing the colour of the feathers. The process is, however, very uncertain.

229/31. *E. M.*—Your sample of spirit has miscarried; but it is hardly necessary to send us another sample, as you will be as able to apply B.P. tests as we are. The instructions in the present B.P. are concise and easily applied.

229/21. *Ebor*.—Chemicals used in place of ice in a refrigerator would be more expensive than ice. You could advantageously replace part of the ice with chemicals if you wish to get a lower temperature. For instance:—

	(1)
Ice	2
Salt	1
Temperature sinks to	−5°.
	(2)
Ice	5
Salt	2
Sal ammoniac	1
Temperature sinks to	−12°.
	(3)
Ice	12
Salt	5
Nitrate of ammonia	5
Temperature sinks to	−25°.

233/1. *N. L. S*—Mr. James Startin, 15 Harley Street, W., is a specialist on removing superfluous hair.

231/60. *Hypo*.—(1) Plate-blaeking Fluid—See *C. & D.*, April 2, 1898, page 546. (2) It is a matter for experiment. (3) You are referring, we think, to Startin's pomade, which you will find on page 66 of "Pharmaceutical Formulas." Erasmus Wilson is often credited with formulæ which he was not guilty of.

234/42. *T. F. W.*—The sign before the decimal point is 0. It is a usual indication in metric prescriptions.

235/62. *G. S. D*—The injection consists of a coal-tar solution, such as Wright's liq. carbonis deterg., in water.

233/41. *Wart*.—The portion of a plant you enclose we take to be *Chelidonium majus* (the greater celandine), the orange-coloured juice of which is a popular remedy for warts.

236/33. *Colehicum*.—There is no book that we know of on the cultivation of medicinal herbs and plants. The growing of medicinal herbs is in the hands of comparatively few persons, and they have gained their experience from years of practical experiments. Bentley and Trimen's "Medicinal Plants" (Churchill, 11s. 11s.) would be useful for reference as to the figures and properties of plants.

237/11. *Vet.*—We cannot prophesy whether you will get a "decent living" in the veterinary profession. It seems to us an excellent auxiliary to drug-business. The veterinary periodicals are the *Veterinarian*, monthly, 1s. 6d. (Longmans, Paternoster Row); the *Veterinary Journal*, monthly, 1s. 6d. (Baillière, 20 King William Street, W.C.); and the *Veterinary Record*, weekly, 3d. (20 Fulham Road, S.W.).

237/59. *H. H.*—(1) The *C. & D.* has to be prepared with extreme rapidity, and we are obliged to adopt whatever means will facilitate the production; but we certainly never divided sixteen pages into seven separate sections. We do not see how this could be done. (2) There are several soot-cleansing powders on the market, and we do not suppose the proportions of sulphur and salt matter much within certain limits. We gave the analysis (*C. & D.*, July 9, 1898, page 63) as we found it. The box only contained 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of powder; it was not full. (3) We note your suggestion.

232/48. *Tablet*.—"How to Make Tablets," by Frank Edel (the Spatula Company, 8 Oliver Street, Boston,

U.S.A., 25c.). See also Mr. Hardwick's B.P.C. paper in *C. & D.*, August 1, 1896.

236/56. *E. H. R.*—You should reduce by half the dose of liq. strychn., tr. podoph., and acid. nit. mur. dil. in your liver-tonic. The doses you give are too big for general use.

236/12. *B. & Co.*—The deposit you complain of in the jelly made from jelly-squares is due to insoluble matter in the gelatin. It is only got rid of by diluting the jelly-square mass with water, letting the solution stand in a hot place to deposit, and filtering through felt, and evaporating.

236/41. *Glance.*—Soft-soap, soda, and warm water should suffice for washing the greasy-coated horse, before showing.

231/44. *Wyeside.*—Arsenical solutions are the most efficient weed-killers. There are some recipes in "Pharmaceutical Formulas," page 439, or back numbers of *C. & D.* (such as January 1, 1898, page 30).

236/22. *Analyst.*—If you wish to make your son a professional chemist, your best plan will be to let him obtain the F.I.C. qualification. The preliminary examination for this is one of any of those recognised by the General Medical Council. In our Educational number, September 4, 1897, there are full particulars.

237/52. *A. J. N.*—(1) Potass. binoxalate is generally mixed with potass. bitart. for sale as salt of lemon, the recipe in "Pharmaceutical Formulas," page 309, being the usual proportion. (2) You run risks under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act if you sell zinc and precipitate ointments of other strengths than ordered in the B.P. (3) We were unable to obtain the address.

231/46. *Standard.*—Formalin is a 40-per-cent. solution of formaldehyde. If you will read the article in "Pharmaceutical Formulas" again, you will see this clearly stated.

230/68. *R. G. N.*—Hawksley's milk-sterilisers (see *DIARY*, page 465) would be suitable for a nurse's use.

231/6. *Inquirer.*—We have not a formula for pulv. anti-septic. co. (Lyree).

230/69. *Thyroid.*—Myxœdema and sporadic cretinism are diseases in which the thyroid gland is atrophied or undeveloped, hence the administration of animal thyroid gland to supply the deficiency.

238/74. *Ozone.*—Cheap Sachet-powder, as your sample:—

Powdered liquorice	ʒviiij.
Powdered orris	ʒiv.
Powdered sandalwood	ʒii.
Powdered vanilla	ʒij.
Essential oil of almonds	ʒiv.

Mix.

238/42. *Bals. Peru.*—If the hair-wash is bright on mixing you will not, of course, require "to filter bright." It is not always quite clear when freshly made.

238/59. *Pip.*—The directions are correct; but there is no reason at all why you should not vary them if you think fit.

238/70. *Dens.*—Liquid Dentifrice.—See *C. & D.*, April 2, 1898, page 562, or "Pharmaceutical Formulas," pages 132-6.

237/17. *H. W. K.*—We gather that you wish to make *Dog-soap ab initio*. In 1880 (page 339) and in 1882 *DIARY* we gave full instructions for making hard soap which are too long to reproduce here. As a medicament you will require to add to the base 10 per cent. of Stockholm tar or heavy tar oil, or you might use a similar percentage of sulphur. Some dogs are rather susceptible to carbolic acid, which for this reason should be avoided.

238, 21. *Liber Cognitio.*—Your bookseller will doubtless be able to procure the information about the book for you, especially if it is a recent work.

237/45. *Sussex.*—The following is the formula for Cold Brazing:—

Brass-filings	2 oz.
Steel-filings	2 oz.
Hydrofluoric acid	½ oz.

Mix in a leaden or guttapercha vessel and allow to stand a day or two. To make small repairs of iron or steel apply the paste to the edges of the parts it is required to unite and bind firmly together. In a short time the fracture will have united.

239/29. *Pulegium.*—In the *C. & D.* for September 4, 1897, page 406, you will find a full list of books suitable for using in preparing for the Minor.

Information Wanted.

The Editor will be obliged for replies to the following from any who can furnish the information.

239/8. Maker of Aynard's steriliser.

232/20. Address of maker of "Rosolene," a cleansing-preparation.

231/31. What is "glass gall," used by confectioners for taking out the "grain" of sugar?

237/49. Address of Carboline Roofing Company, makers of a material consisting of fine-wire mesh filled with insoluble gelatine, suitable for outside blinds.

Coming Events.

We insert notices of association and society meetings in this section free if they are sent to us, on postcards, by the Wednesday of the week before the meetings are to be held.

Wednesday, July 29.

Newcastle-on-Tyne and District Chemists' Association. Half-day excursion to Hexham. Members will meet at 1 P.M. at the Central Station, returning from Hexham at 10.10 P.M. Tickets, to include railway-fare and tea, 4s. each, from Mr. G. F. Merson, Hon. Secretary, 24 Newgate Street, Newcastle.

Thursday, July 21.

Western Chemists' Association (of London). River excursion. Leave Paddington 8.45 A.M. Application for tickets (16s. each) must be made not later than Monday, July 18.

THE British Consul at St. Louis says that that city is one of the largest drug-distributing centres in the United States, the total value of the turnover (which includes chemicals, essential oils, patent medicines, and druggists' sundries) amounting to 5,000,000*l.* in 1897, or an increase of 15 per cent. to 20 per cent. over 1896.

THE SMALL BOY AND THE DRUGGIST about whom we had occasion to write last week have moved the *Lancet* to humour—a rare thing in that quarter. "Our sympathies," says the *Lancet*, "are all with the druggist, but yet we think the decision of the case against him was right as well as a foregone conclusion. He should have spanked the boy, whose outside would certainly not have been regarded either by magistrate, parent, or public as so clearly sacred from interference as his gastro-intestinal tract. The ingenuity of the punishment was bound to inflame general sentiment against him, even while no one may deny that the boy's behaviour was aggravating. We think the Magistrates were right to inflict a fine, and hope that the decision will act as a deterrent for two rather obvious reasons. Firstly, if such retaliatory measures were to be sanctioned by law the next solution administered in this way might not be so harmless as quassia, the punishment might not fit the crime so well, and the executioner might be less instructed in therapeutics. Secondly, an element of nervous terror is imported into punishment which should never be present in the punishment of children."

British Chemical Trade.

Facts and Figures from the Board of Trade Returns.

SUBJOINED are figures extracted from the last Board of Trade returns showing the business done in the articles referred to during the first six months of this year. Those to which asterisks are attached are foreign or colonial produce; in all other instances the exports represent goods of British or Irish manufacture:—

	Imports		Exports	
	1897 £	1898 £	1897 £	1898 £
Alkali	50,564	61,626	650,188	489,866
Bark for tanners, &c.	49,271	57,170	—	—
*Bark, Peruvian ...	27,614	69,682	9,778	26,963
Bleaching-materials	—	—	170,355	157,989
*Borax	—	12,120	—	46
Bottles	461,967	501,384	192,620	182,499
Brimstone	51,733	42,581	—	—
*Chemicals, unenumerated	673,981	721,564	118,070	143,603
*Cinnamon	29,125	22,655	24,632	23,194
*Cochineal	8,336	18,721	9,240	9,324
Copper sulphate ...	—	—	827,166	757,480
Cutch and gambier	207,069	178,498	—	—
Drugs, unenumerated	435,401	443,986	553,437	531,566
Dyes, alizarine ...	108,138	104,331	—	—
„ aniline, &c. ...	£33,495	249,341	—	—
*Gum arabic... ..	66,898	56,482	49,568	36,795
*„ lac, shellac, &c.	499,867	212,564	231,050	131,337
*Indigo	1,387,402	815,362	602,975	474,618
*Oil, cocoa-nut ...	119,907	172,196	49,191	50,644
„ olive	293,253	416,575	78,739	67,307
*„ palm	480,913	452,270	317,500	295,502
*„ petroleum ...	1,535,262	1,718,953	24,975	20,864
*„ turpentine ...	166,852	252,310	—	—
*Pepper	218,081	307,692	118,230	156,486
*Quicksilver... ..	364,026	362,234	88,779	117,602
Resin	237,007	160,617	—	—
Saltpetre	159,169	107,207	—	—
Soap... ..	—	—	389,587	410,034

The imports and exports in the foregoing are, with few exceptions, strictly comparable. The exceptions include "chemicals unenumerated," which in the official returns of exports are entered under the single item, "Chemical Manufactures and Products, unenumerated," but the exports are analysed somewhat, so that we should place the figures thus for 1898:—

	£	s.	d.
Imports: Chemical manufactures and products	721,584	0	0
Exports: Bleach, &c. ...	103,972	0	0
Copper sulphate... ..	757,480	0	0
Chemical manures	1,055,786	0	0
Various	1,399,159	0	0
	3,316,397	0	0

Thus apart from an export trade in imported chemicals, but including alkali and medicines, we have exported during the first six months of this year 4,391,846*l.* worth of chemicals and chemical and medicinal preparations.

As to the June trading we observe an increase in imports of chemicals, dyestuffs, and tanning-substances to the extent of 77,881*l.*, and exports of chemicals and chemical and medicinal preparations increased also by 50,030*l.*, although there has been a decrease of 239,859*l.* on the six months. Still, the most serious thing about our chemical-trade is alkali, of which during June we imported 6,201*l.* worth more and exported 37,054*l.* worth less—in short, every chemical department in this country, except alkali, was better in June, the increases in the section amounting to 87,569*l.*; but from this the decreases in bleach and alkali have to be deducted, taking the increase down to 87,569*l.*; the decrease is equal to a third compared with June, 1897. Alkali and chemical manufactures in the imports show an increase of 18,794*l.*

The following paragraph still appears in the returns as a footnote to Foreign Spirits imported:—

In addition to the quantities shown for the home consumption of "other sorts" of spirits, the following is the number of gallons delivered for methylating purposes in the six months, viz.:—

1896	31,986	gals.
1897	5,583	„
1898	9	„

The decrease in methylation of foreign spirits is remarkable.

The following are the quantities of the stated articles remaining in the bonded warehouses of the United Kingdom on June 30:—

Cocoa, raw	lbs.	21,658,000
„ prepared	„	1,666,000
Coffee (including roasted and ground)	cwts.	445,000
Tea... ..	lbs.	57,258,000
Tobacco, unmanufactured	„	133,789,000
„ foreign manufactured, and snuff	„	2,245,000

We may add that the imports of raw cocoa during the first six months increased to 27,783,115 lbs. (January-June, 1897, 14,717,588 lbs.), and of this 16,434,210 lbs. was entered for home consumption; while the imports of prepared cocoa increased from 3,911,383 lbs. in January-June, 1897, to 4,607,700 lbs. this year, but the quantity entered for home consumption decreased by fully half a million pounds, to 3,056,468 lbs.

Commercial Notes.

JAPAN TRAD.

Since May 1 the Japanese Customs authorities have permitted examination of the following articles on board ship, providing application is made beforehand at the Surveyor's Office:—Caustic soda, chlorate of potash, bicarbonate of soda, carbolic acid, quinine, alcohol, soda ash, resin, paints (28-lb. kegs), and linseed oil.

MORE PUSH WANTED.

The consular report for 1897 shows a tremendous falling-off in the import of drugs and medicines in Guatemala as compared with the preceding year. In 1896 the total imports amounted to \$184,246 as against \$72,816 in 1897. In a table showing the relative value of drug-imports from four of the principal countries we find Great Britain sadly behind. The following are the figures for 1897:—Great Britain, 2,087*l.*; France, 4,035*l.*; Germany, 4,833*l.*; and the United States, 6,832*l.*

AMERICAN SOAP IN SAMOA.

The American yellow soap has a large sale in Samoa. It is packed in cases containing 32 bars, nominally of a hundred pounds weight, and costs 16*s.* a case landed in Samoa, while it is retailed at 1*s.* a bar. It is harder than the bar soap manufactured in Australia, Australian and New Zealand brands of yellow soap hold their own in the market. The commoner sorts of soap cost about 14*s.* a case of 44 smaller bars, landed in Samoa, the bars being only two-thirds the size of the American, and retailing at 6*d.* The "Crown" brand, a favourite bar of soap of high character, manufactured in Sydney, costs about 19*s.* per case, landed in Samoa.

SICILIAN SULPHUR.

The operations of the "Anglo-Sicilian Sulphur Company (Limited)" (says H.M. Consul at Catania, Sicily) have proceeded regularly and without a hitch, and have been a boon to the mine proprietors, who are now able to earn a good profit on their industry. In June, 1897, the company entered into contracts for two years with twelve (out of fifteen) of the refiners at Catania to work up, at fixed prices, 110,000 tons of crude sulphur into the various refined qualities, with faculty to sell two-thirds of the quantity at 3 per cent. selling-commission. These contracts have worked with satisfactory results. The average price of crude sulphur for 1897, taking best thirds as a basis, has been 3*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.* per ton f.o.b. Catania, as against 3*l.* 7*s.* for 1896.

French Tariff Changes.

Changes of Importance to the Drug and Chemical Trades.

THE French Customs are responsible for occasional changes of tariff, which are only announced by circular, so that British traders have difficulty in learning of them. The British Chamber of Commerce in Paris have just collected all such orders, and have published a circular, in which sixty-one changes, which have been made since the promulgation of the French tariff in 1892, are recorded. The following are the items which interest our subscribers, the rates being per 100 kilos, unless where otherwise stated:—

Articles	Duty under old classification	Duty under new classification
Iodised antiseptic tissues	Duty according to the nature of the tissue	Ditto, plus duty on iodine contained, at the rate of 4f. per kilo.
Nestlé's milk-food	42f.	36f.
Unrefined vaseline	28f.	9f.
Precipitated phosphate of lime	5 per cent. ad val.	Free
Essences of Indian geranium, palma rosa, and andropogon	500f.	50f.
Acetic ether ...	30f., plus denaturalisation tax at the rate of 1.25 litre of alcohol per kilo.	30f., plus denaturalisation tax at the rate of 0.75 litre of alcohol
Pyrazolon and antipyrin	5 per cent. ad val.,	253f. for pyrazolon and 5 per cent. ad val., plus 99f. for antipyrin
Acetic acid, crystallised	5 per cent. ad val.	69.75f.
Salol	15f.	15f., plus duty on alcohol, at the rate of 6f. per 100 kilos. of salol
Antifebrin... ..	138f.	25f.
Santonin	5 per cent. ad val., plus the alcohol duty	5 per cent. ad val.
"Bromide, classed as alcoholic chemical product, to be classed as brom"	5 per cent. ad val., plus the alcohol duty	50f.
Theobromine ...	5 per cent. ad val., plus the alcohol duty on 30 kilos. of alcohol per kilo. of theobromine	5 per cent. ad val., plus the alcohol duty on 25 kilos. of alcohol per kilo. of theobromine
Permanganate of potash	5 per cent. ad val.	10f.

Oxalic acid.—It is notified that the legal tare on oxalic acid imported in wooden cases or barrels is fixed at 9 per cent.

Acetic acid, when denaturalised in bond, is to be passed free of the internal tax only when leave has been obtained from the Directeur des Contributions Indirectes.

"*Bromide*" is, we presume, ethyl bromide.

We note further that during January-May this year Great Britain exported to France chemical products amounting in value to 13,060,000f. (nearly 1½ million francs less than in the same period last year), and France exported to us 6,033,000f. worth of the same, or nearly half a million more than in 1897.

THE value of chemicals, paints, and oils imported into Batoum during 1897 was 23,983*l.*, against 17,353*l.* in 1896, and sulphur 16,096*l.* (4,999 tons) as against 15,174*l.* (4,453 tons).

DRUGS to the value of 36,360*l.* were imported into Alexandretta in 1897 compared with 38,871*l.* in 1896. Among the exports from that port during 1897 were:—Scammony-root, 14 tons, 352*l.*; liquorice-root, 7,202 tons, 50,415*l.*; galls and yellow berries, 37,655*l.*; beeswax, 3,615*l.*; gum arabic, 16,472*l.*; and opium, 4,830*l.*

Trade Report.

Notice to Retail Buyers.

It should be remembered that the quotations in this section are invariably the lowest net cash prices actually paid for large quantities in bulk, and, for crude drugs, without charges. For fuller particulars see the article "Lowest Trade Terms" in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, March 19, 1898, p. 473. *C.i.f.* quotations are for London unless when otherwise stated.

Buyers of essential oils are particularly requested to note that low quotations, especially for Sicilian essences, are rarely, if ever, accompanied by guarantee of genuineness.

THIS has been a dull week; complaints as to the lack of business are general, and there seems little prospect of improvement for some weeks to come. The most notable feature of the week is the rise in price of salicylic acid and salicylates. Manufacturers have long complained of the low rates that they were obtaining for the acid, the margin between 1*s.* 4*d.* per lb. (the late minimum price for large quantities) and the price of phenol being too narrow to cover the cost of manufacture, packing, and a living profit. The use of the acid as a preservative is still on the increase, and the fact that the lowest quotation is for ton lots is a fair criterion to the amount of the acid used. The advance has been secured by persuading some outsiders to come into the ring. The reduction in the price of refined camphor by English sublimers at the height of the consuming season appears to have been instigated chiefly by desire to get a larger share of business, and it is warranted by the current value of the crude article. Reports from Formosa and Hong-Kong are not, however, of brilliant portent. The following summary of movements epitomises our reports up to Thursday morning:—

Higher	Firmer	Lower	Easier
Acid, salicylic	Acid, citric	Camphor	Acid, tannic
Copper sulphate	Acid, tartaric	Oil, saffras	Oil, castor
Oil, cassia	Ambergris	Phenazone	
Oil, linseed	Cocaine (crude)		
Oil, turpentine	Oil, E.I. geranium		
Pepper	Oil, peppermint		
Pimento	Opium		
Thymol	Saffron		

It will be noticed that the American peppermint crop has been nipped by the frost; Americans are buying opium in Smyrna, and East Indian produce tends higher, partly on account of speculation, but chiefly because famine-reports are depressing.

Bulgarian Rose-crop.

The following is a statement of the amount of otto of rose distilled in the various districts this year:—

	Kilos.		Kilos.
Kesanlik	485	Bresovo	215
Karlovo	385	Tchirpan	50
Ovtchelnik	48	Nova-Zagora	45
Pechtera and Plovdiv ...	85	Stara Sagora	52

This gives a total of 1,720 kilos, and confirms our correspondent's estimate a fortnight since.

Mysore Sandalwood Oil.

The Mysore Government have put an end to the exclusive privilege of distilling sandalwood oil in that State by rejecting the application of a Coonor distiller, Mr. H. S. Lee, who applied for the monopoly for a period of ten years. The monopoly granted to Mr. F. P. Hay, of Hunsur, some years

ago was cancelled in 1896, as he failed to take action under it. He proposed to employ a European process. We are informed that the Mysore Government are anxious to develop distillation of the oil under a proper economical process, and ere long may undertake this on their own account, unless some private manufacturer sees his way, without monopoly, to secure the undoubted advantage of distilling on the spot from fresh-cut wood with modern stills.

Formosa Camphor.

The fall in the price of camphor this week gives point to two consular reports, which have been published since our last issue, regarding the trade of Formosa. In one of these, from Tainan, it is reported that the danger of camphor-distillation increased during the past year owing to continued brigandage, which the Japanese authorities appear not to have been able to overcome or minimise in the least. The net result is that several of the merchants who have provided the capital for camphor-distillation have lost it all, and in view of that there is no disposition to invest more in the same direction. The exports from Tainan since the trade commenced in South Formosa are as follows:—1892, 4,315 piculs; 1893, 6,691; 1894, 12,157; 1895, 10,145; 1896, 8,001 (value 44,888*l.*); 1897, 3,057 (value 12,525*l.*). The present outlook is far from bright. The Consul in North Formosa states that at present no British firm in North Formosa seems to interest itself in this important product, the handling of which is in the hands of German and Chinese merchants, acting probably in combination. The value of the camphor exported decreased from 194,221*l.* in 1896 to 121,938*l.* in 1897.

Gum-sales.

The usual farce came off to-day, when half-a-dozen brokers offered several thousand packages of gum arabic and succeeded in disposing of about one-twelfth of the supply. The sales consisted chiefly of Oomra and Kurrachi. The following prices were obtained:—For very fine Oomra, in tears, 46*s.* per cwt.; dark ditto, 32*s.* 6*d.* to 33*s.* 6*d.*; with prices down to 15*s.* for darker down to woody qualities. Good Kurrachi pickings sold at 23*s.* to 30*s.* per cwt., and siftings at 30*s.* to 31*s.* Ghatti and Cawnpore gums were bought in, and one lot of bhocky Australian sold at 11*s.*

Heavy Chemicals.

A very quiet tone has been the prevailing feature in the heavy-chemical market since our last, and values all round are on the easy side. Demand for bleaching-powder is only very poor, both for home and export. Caustic soda quiet, at unchanged rates for prompt, but for forward business somewhat lower figures are being accepted. Saltpetre is very firm and in heavy request. Recovered sulphur, too, maintains a firm position. Soda crystals steady, as is also yellow prussiate of potash. Brown acetate of lime is lower, and is now quoted 5*l.* to 5*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* c.i.f. Green copperas in moderate request. Sulphate of ammonia quiet, and a shade lower. Benzols are dull, but appear to be taking a somewhat steadier tone. Cream of tartar firmer. Linseed and cottonseed cakes quietly steady. Nitrate of soda firm, and refined is rather scarce. Sulphate of copper firmer: Anchor, 16*l.* 15*s.*; Liverpool, 16*l.* 10*s.* Carbolic acids and naphthas steady. Anthracene, both grades, weak. Hyposulphite of soda in moderate request. Borax and boric acid quiet. Bichromates unchanged at late low rates. Brown and white sugar of lead quiet. White powdered arsenic steadier and in fuller demand. Alum and best makes sulphate of alumina unchanged and demand quiet.

Liverpool Drug-market.

Liverpool, July 13.

CASTOR OIL.—Still in a strange position. Owing to arrivals by the *s.s. Craftsman*, good seconds Calcutta have declined to 3*¼d.* per lb. spot, but high quotations are asked forward. First-pressure French is obtainable at 3*d.* per lb., second-pressure, 2*¾d.*, and Madras at 3*¼d.*

BEE-WAX.—Considerable animation has been shown in this during the past week, and sales of Peruvian are reported at 7*l.* 10*s.* and 7*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* Chilean has sold in fair quantity at 7*l.* 10*s.* for pale yellow down to 7*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* for mixed grey and yellow. For Sierra Leone description there is not much inquiry. A parcel recently offered at auction, met with no bids even at 6*l.* Holders' ideas were 6*l.* 10*s.*

GUM ARABIC.—Sorts are moving off in retail at steady prices, quotations ranging from 67*s.* 6*d.* to 80*s.* The supply is only moderate. Medimum unchanged and in fair supply.

FENUGREEK-SEED.—Moving off slowly at 9*l.* to 12*l.* 3*s.*, according to grade.

KOLA-NUTS sell steadily at 1*¼d.* to 1*½d.* per lb. from the quay as they arrive.

QUILLARIA-BARK.—Steady at 18*l.* to 18*l.* 10*s.* per ton from the quay.

CHILLIES.—Sierra Leone are held for 40*s.*, but some inferior are quoted at 35*s.*

CANARY-SEED.—Very quiet, with sales of bright Turkish at 25*s.* 6*d.* per quarter.

SULPHATE OF COPPER has advanced during the week, and holders are now asking 16*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* to 16*l.* 10*s.*

IRISH MOSS.—Recent arrivals of new crop are held for 10*s.* per cwt. for common grade.

HONEY.—The only movement during the week has been in Chilean, 118 kegs Pile III. having sold at 20*s.*, and 82 kegs no pile at 18*s.* 6*d.* All the other grades are firmly held.

GRAINS OF PARADISE.—45*s.* per cwt. still asked for the small stocks.

Hamburg Drug-market.

Hamburg, July 12.

ALOES.—Firm. Cape 55*m.* and Curaçao 39*m.* to 40*m.* per 100 kilos.

ANTIMONY.—Steady, at 48*m.* per 100 kilos.

ANISE.—*Russian* easier; prompt shipment can be bought now at 35*m.* per 100 kilos. *Star* firm on spot, at 235*m.* per 100 kilos, shipments 195*m.*

BALSAM COPAIBA.—Firmly held, at 3.60*m.* to 3.75*m.* per kilo for genuine, although several new lots have arrived.

BALSAM PERU.—Steady, at 19*m.* per kilo, for genuine.

CASSIA LIGNEA is tending firmer at 80*m.* per 100 kilos.

CINNAMON-CHIPS show a better demand for prompt delivery, and spot 57*m.* per 100 kilos.

CAMPHOR (REFINED).—Dull, and nominally 230*m.* per 100 kilos.

CASCARA SAGRADA is scarce, and little offering.

CORIANDER-SEED (MOGADORE) is quoted 13*m.* to 13*½m.* per 100 kilos.

ERGOT OF RYE.—Neglected, at 130*m.* to 160*m.* per 100 kilos, according to quality.

GALANGAL is steady at 45*m.* per 100 kilos.

HYCOPODIUM is quiet at 225*m.* per 100 kilos.

IPÉCACUANA.—Firm. Rio is held at 22*m.* per kilo, and Cartagena at 16*m.* to 17*m.* per kilo.

OPICUM.—Firm, at 22*m.* per kilo.

PEPPER is firm, and advancing. Singapore, 68*m.* to 69*m.* per 100 kilos, paid.

QUININE.—Neglected. Second-hand price, 26*½m.* per kilo.

SPIRIT OF TURPENTINE.—Dull. New arrivals came in last week. Spot price, 45*m.*; August-December, 42*m.* per 100 kilos.

KOLA-NUTS—Steady, at 35*m.* to 40*m.* per 100 kilos.

CUMIN-SEED is firmer. New-crop sold at 39*m.* per 100 kilos, for shipment.

OILS (FIXED).—Cod-liver is firm, at 85*m.* per barrel for 1898 non-congealing. Castor oil quiet: first pressing, spot, 56*m.*; forward, 54*m.* per 100 kilos, per barrel.

OILS (ESSENTIAL).—Star-anise, 15*½m.* per kilo. Peppermint quiet, HIGH 5*½m.* per lb. Japan oil, 6*½m.* per kilo.

Cablegrams.

SMYRNA, July 13, 11 A.M.—Good business has again been done on American account, and large sales have been made of current talequale at 10*s.* 3*d.* to 10*s.* 5*d.* per lb. f.o.b. Smyrna. In consequence of this the market has hardened considerably, and closes firm.

* * * *

HAMBURG, July 14.—Following upon the English refiners' reduction in price our refiners are easier in their views at 230*m.* per 100 kilos, for bells. Oil of cassia is firmer, cloves are going higher, and a decided improvement has set in in the turpentine market.

* * * *

NEW YORK, July 14, 2 55 P.M.—The drug-markets have a quieter tone. Opium is quoted at \$3 60 to \$3 75 per lb., at which figures there is active speculative buying. Quinine is more active at 20c. per oz. Damiana is quoted at 13c. per lb., and is advancing. Beeswax is a little easier, 29c. per lb. being asked. Quillaria is in fair supply at 6c. per lb.

* * * *

AMSTERDAM, July 14, 4 22 P.M.—The cinchona-auctions were held here to-day and passed off well, the tone being firmer and in marked contrast to the last sale. The offerings had increased to 7,068 packages, but owing to the firmness of the sellers a smaller proportion than usual was sold, and none was bought for England or

America. The Auerbach Company bought 4,628 kilos.; the Brunswick, 6,462 kilos.; the Mannheim, 3,656 kilos.; Amsterdam, 3,300 kilos.; and various others, 6,113 kilos. The unit averaged 4.20c. per $\frac{1}{2}$ kilo. (4.10c. at the June auction). Manufacturing bark sold at 7c. per $\frac{1}{2}$ kilo. on the average, and druggists' bark from 38c. to 60c. per $\frac{1}{2}$ kilo.

42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.: July 14.

ACID, ACETIC.—In fair inquiry, but still obtainable at low prices—viz., B.P., 33 per cent., 15s. per cwt. in $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton lots, carbonyl free; glacial, 33s. ditto.

ACID, BORACIC, is 23s. per cwt. for crystals and 25s. for powder.

ACID, CARBOLIC.—Firm, but unchanged, at 7d. per lb. for m.p. 35–36° C., in ice-crystals, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for m.p. 40° C., and 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for detached crystals, m.p. 40° C. Crude liquid, 60 p.c., is 2s. per gallon.

ACID, CITRIC.—Very firm, and makers not disposed to fill unlimited orders at the current quotation, 1s. 2d. per lb.

ACID, SALICYLIC.—The makers of this acid and of its salts have succeeded in firming the ring, with the result that on Monday prices were raised by 1d. to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. for both acid and salts. The prices of acid are:—(A) powder, 1s. 10d. per lb.; (B) crystals, 2s.; and (C) physiologically pure, 3s. 10d.; salicylate of soda is 2s. for (D) powder, 2s. 6d. for (E) crystals, and 3s. 6d. for (F) physiologically pure. The following are the rates for quantities of 2 cwt. and over:—

	A		B		C		D		E		F	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
1 ton ...	1	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	1	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	10	1	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	6
8 cwt. ...	1	7	1	9	3	1	1	9	2	3	2	9
2 cwt. ...	1	8	2	0	3	4	1	10	2	4	3	0

These are "naked" prices (*i.e.*, in 1-lb. paper parcels) and for contracts extending over six to twelve months. The following extras are charged:—14-lb. tins, 1d. per lb.; 7-lb ditto or 1-lb. cardboard boxes, 2d. per lb.; bottles, 4d per lb.

ACID, TANNIC.—In consequence of the excessive supplies of galls, German manufacturers are disposed to accept easier prices for this acid, as well as for *pyrogallie*.

ACID, TARTARIC.—Foreign crystals, 1s. 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb., c.i.f.; English, 1s. 1d., and firm.

AMBERGRIS.—Continental users are now buying exclusively in the London market, which is always an indication that the stocks are concentrated into the hands of holders here. That does not mean much, for there is little really fine ambergris available, and holders want 95l. to 100s. per oz. for tip-top grey. If further supplies do not come forward higher prices will be seen.

ANISEED (STAR).—There is nothing first-class to be had in Hong-Kong, where the price for ordinary is 108s. per cwt., c.i.f. per steamer. The total exports from Hong-Kong and Canton up to June 4 this year have been 708 boxes, compared with 1,357 last year.

BALSAM OF TOLU.—Business has been done in fair balsam at 1s. 8d. per lb.

BISMUTH SALTS.—Unchanged. The quotations for 56-lb lots are as follows:—Carbonate, 5s. 7d. per lb.; subnitrate 5s.; subchloride, 5s. 6d., or 2d. per lb. less for 5-cwt. lots.

BORAX, in crystal, 13s. 6d. to 14s. per cwt.

CAMPHOR.—Cheaper. The lowest quotation for English is 1s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. for bells in 1-ton lots. For quantities under $\frac{1}{2}$ ton the prices are:—*Bells* and *Flowers*, 1s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. (boxes for flowers extra if smaller than 5 lbs.); *Tablets*, $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 lb., 1s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.; 1 and 2 oz., 1s. 5d. per lb.; $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., 1s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.; $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{8}$ oz., 1s. 6d. per lb.; 1-lb. boxes, 1s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. The lower tendency of crude camphor (noted in our last report) and a desire to meet German competition have promoted the reduction. German bells are quoted 1s. 1d. to 1s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. (the lower price for ton lots), and German tablets are dearer than English. The exports of crude from Canton and Hong-Kong from January 1 to June 4 amounted to 9,222 boxes. In the same period of 1897 the exports were 12,053, and in 1896 11,447. The arrivals in the Chinese ports from Formosa between May 23 and June 11 were

1,762 cases; in the same time 732 cases were shipped to Europe, and 220 to India, and 2,500 cases were sold, leaving a stock of 7,000 cases.

CANTHARIDES.—Russian is obtainable at 1s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.* The New York market is bare of both Chinese (38c. to 40c. per lb.) and Russian (45c. to 50c.).

CASCARA SAGRADA.—The price of new bark is kept down to 19s.–20s. per cwt.

CINCHONA.—So far only five brokers have intimated sales of bark in London next week, the total being 675 bales—a small sale. The total exports of bark from Ceylon up to June 21 amount to 395,716 lbs., against 346,216 lbs. for the same period last year, and 570,361 lbs. in 1896.

COCAINE.—Pure hydrochloride unchanged. The small supplies of crude cocaine on the Continent are making refiners anxious as to the future of the article.

COPPER SULPHATE.—Now 15l. 15s. per ton on the spot.

CREAM OF TARTAR.—Firm. Ordinary crystal has been sold at 68s. per cwt., f.o.b. Bordeaux, but no more is to be had at that money, and the spot price is 72s. to 73s. per cwt., and 76s. for powder, with the better qualities at proportionately higher rates.

GALLS, BUSSORAH.—Market quiet but firm. Small sales of *Blues* have been made at 54s. per cwt., and *Green* at 50s. In white there has been nothing doing; present value, 42s. to 44s.

GLYCERIN.—Firm, 52s. per cwt. being wanted for English, and 53s. for German 1/260. Makers are not selling crude at present.

GUAIACUM.—A drossy to fair glassy gum can be had at 7d. to 8d. per lb. Fine gum is not to be had.

GUM TRAGACANTH.—A fair business has been passing, chiefly in the medium and lower grades, at full rates, but the better qualities are neglected. The following are the ruling prices:—Firsts, 12l. 10s. to 13l.; seconds, 11l. 10s. to 12l.; thirds, 10l. to 11l.; fourths, 8l. to 9l. 10s.

HERB-CROPS.—Messrs. E. Bing & Son's brief report given in our last issue refers solely to belladonna and henbane, which are a short crop in the Canterbury district this season. Messrs. J. & G. Miller (Mitcham) inform us that the Mitcham crops of peppermint and lavender have improved considerably with a fortnight's fine weather, but more sun is still required and some showers later on to make a good yield. A larger acreage has been planted this season than for many years. Prospects at present indicate crops of peppermint above the average, but very much depends on the weather during the next five or six weeks. Messrs. Perks & Llewellyn (Hitchin) inform us that lavender and peppermint plants are looking exceedingly well, and if the weather is favourable during the next few weeks, there should be a good yield of oil.

INSECT-FLOWERS.—Quiet. A correspondent in Trieste informs us that during June 98,300 kilos. of new-crop Dalmatian flowers were received, and 61,500 kilos. were delivered, leaving the stock at 257,100 kilos. of both old and new. The following are the f.o.b. prices in Trieste for the various flowers in 4-cwt. bales:—*Wild*, 113s. to 119s. per cwt.; *Closed*, 80s. to 93s.; *Half-open*, 56s. to 66s.; and *Open*, 40s. to 42s.

IPECACUANHA.—Some of the best native picked Rio (good sound and bold root) has been sold since the auction at 9s. 1d. per lb. The holders of Cartagena are firm at 5s. per lb.

JALAP.—Holders are firm in their views, and are not disposed to part with sound small Vera Cruz root at less than 6d. per lb., the idea being that higher prices are justified by the short crop. The last was a poor one also—viz., 160 tons, as compared with 179 tons in 1895–96, when prices were 50 per cent. higher. It is noteworthy that Germany imported in 1896–97 as much from Vera Cruz as did the United States—viz., 74 tons. France came next with 10 tons, and England last with 2 tons of direct import. The bulk of the jalap is, however, sold in London.

LOBELIA.—For pressed 6d. per lb. c.i.f. is wanted.

MAGNESIA, CALCINED.—Five to 10lb. boxes 1s. per lb.;

1-lb. tins, 1s. 2d.; and 1-lb. bottles, 1s. 4d.; in each case for large contracts.

MERCURIALS in 1-cwt. lots are offered as follows:—Calomel, 2s. 9d. per lb.; corrosive sublimate, 2s. 5d.; red precipitate, 3s. 1d.; white precipitate, 3s. 2d.

MORPHIA.—Muriate is still quoted at 4s. 9d. per oz. for powder, and 4s. 11d. for crystals, but the manufacturers are arranging for an advance on an early day.

OIL, CASSIA.—Hong-Kong advices indicate a quiet market at 4s. 1d. per lb. for 70 to 75 per cent. aldehyde; 4s. 2d. for 75 to 80 per cent.; and 4s. 5d. for 80 to 85 per cent. in each, c.i.f. per steamer. The stock in Hong-Kong amounts to 125 piculs of the higher grades, chiefly 70–80 per cent., as 80–85 per cent. is in poor supply. This condition has prompted an advance in London this week, spot price for 80–85 per cent. having gone up to 5s. 3d. to 5s. 6d. per lb. but we hear of no actual transactions at the latter figure.

OIL, CASTOR.—Lower rates are asked for British pressing—viz., 28l. 10s. per ton in barrels, or 3³/₁₀d. per lb. in tins for first pressing, and correspondingly lower rates for second f.o.r. or f.o.b., Hull. French also tends to lower rates; best new oil in cases being quoted at 34s. 6d. per cwt. *ex wharf*, and in barrels, 32s.

OIL, CLOVES.—For wholesale quantities 3s. per lb. is the English distillers' price. Contracts are made at less.

OIL, COD-LIVER.—Saving sales of 1897 oil at 72s. 6d. per barrel, c.i.f., there have been no important transactions this week. All Norwegian manufacturers have instructed their agents to hold tight to new oil, as they expect higher prices later. Our Bergen correspondent reports that that market is still quiet, and the quotation for best Lofoten non-congealing oil is unaltered at 81s., f.o.b. terms, per barrel; but buyers begin to show greater interest in the article, and the tendency might certainly be characterised as more steady. The exports from Bergen up to date have been 4,451 barrels, against 4,353 barrels in the corresponding period of last year. Brodr. Aarsæther, of Aalesund, in a circular regarding the fishing, say:—

The Lofoten fishing closed with the lowest quantity on record—viz., 15,000,000 cod, giving 11,254 hectolitres cod-liver oil (1 hectolitre=22 gallons). As a whole, the catch in the southern districts was also unsatisfactory, and the Finnmarken fishing was looked forward to with some anxiety, but here also the catch was poor, and the quantity of oil produced but small, the total result of this fishing being 8,450,000 cod and 4,565 hectolitres cod-liver oil, against 11,070,000 cod and 3,205 hectolitres cod-liver oil in 1897, and 15,900,000 cod and 9,469 hectolitres cod-liver oil in 1896. This brings the total quantity for all fisheries up to 38,451,000 cod and 22,855 brls. cod-liver oil, against 57,695,000 cod and 28,520 brls. cod-liver oil in 1897, and 48,568,000 cod and 20,240 brls. cod-liver oil in the very scarce year 1896. The market for cod-liver oil is very firm but quiet, on account of the absence of inquiries from abroad as usual at this season of the year. Stocks of oil are not large, and we consider it very unlikely that prices should decline.

Although we have already given the results of the season, we venture to add the following comparative statement by Mr. J. R. Holmboe, the figures representing crude oil in hectolitres:—

Year	Lofoten	Other districts	Finnmarken	Total
1888	16,100	12,427	—	28,527
1889	12,900	8,019	4,267	25,186
1890	16,700	11,707	1,400	29,807
1891	18,200	7,115	772	26,087
1892	8,100	10,320	3,899	22,319
1893	18,600	13,200	2,076	33,876
1894	12,300	6,758	4,168	23,226
1895	12,300	6,120	2,891	21,311
1896	8,850	5,019	9,625	23,494
1897	18,260	11,486	4,049	33,795
1898	11,254	10,294	4,828	26,376
Average	12,743	9,755	4,072	26,570

OIL, CITRONELLA.—Unchanged at 12¹/₂d. to 12³/₄d. per lb., c.i.f. The exports of this oil from Ceylon during the present

year are the heaviest on record. No less than 594,433 lbs. has been sent out; of this, 391,162 lbs. has gone direct to America and 183,262 lbs. has come to London. The exports for the corresponding periods of 1897 were 514,908 lbs., for 1896 380,503 lbs., and for 1895 404,171 lbs.

OIL, GERANIUM (E.I.).—Supplies of good quality are running low down, and higher rates are expected.

OIL, LINSEED.—Dearer, owing to good demand. Barrels quoted 17l. per ton on the spot.

OIL, PEPPERMINT.—Cabled reports from New York on Wednesday regarding the partial failure of the peppermint-crop strengthened the market, but prices remain as they were.

OIL, SASSAFRAS.—Cheaper—viz., 1s. 6d. per lb.

OIL, STAR-ANISE, looks firmer, and is quoted at 6s. 9d. to 6s. 10d. per lb. spot.

OIL, TURPENTINE.—Dearer. American, on the spot, 21s. 6d. per cwt.

OIL, YLANG-YLANG.—Fair quality can be bought at 3s. 6d. per oz.

OPIUM.—There has been more inquiry in consequence of Wednesday's news from Smyrna. Business has been done in soft shipping at 12s. per lb., and an offer of new Salonica early in the week at 12s. 6d. per lb. has been withdrawn, 13s. now being wanted. Persian still selling at 12s. Writing on July 1, a Smyrna correspondent states that the sales for the week then ending amounted to 20 cases, the prices obtained being those mentioned in the June 24 letter (see page 67). The following are the arrivals to date:—

	To July 1, 1897.	To July 1, 1898.
Old opium	2,530 cases.	3,703 cases.
New opium	83 „	56 „

The market closed firm, and the Constantinople market is also good. From later advice (July 8) we extract the following:—

We have this week a contest between buyers and sellers, the former asking a slight concession which the latter are unwilling to accord, holding out, on the contrary, for higher prices; but, seeing that there is only one exporter on the market, they are willing to sell at the same price as last week. If, instead of one buyer there had been two or three, there would have certainly been a new rise, and the difficulties of the buyers would continue. This is likely to be the way things will go during the season. The following have been the sales since our last report:—New-crop talegnale, 9s. 7d. per lb., f.o.b. Smyrna, on speculative account; Karahissar, 10s. 1d. to 10s. 4d. for export. The market closes firm. The arrivals so far amount to 103, against 144 at this date last year. The new opium is of satisfactory quality; and at each arrival the quality gets better, which is always the way in dry years like this. It is a peculiar fact that opium only has suffered this year from the inclemency of the weather. We earn from an authoritative source that the present harvest will be an inferior one by 4,000 cases.

OTTO OF ROSE.—A good brand is quoted at 22s. 6d. net per Turkish oz., and there is a possibility of slightly higher prices for new otto.

PHENACETIN.—There has been a rumour this week to the effect that it is the intention of the manufacturers of Bayer's brand to lower the price from 14s. 3d. per lb. to 5s. 6d. at the end of this month, but the agent assures us that no decision to this effect has yet been arrived at by his principals.

PHENAZONE still gives buyers opportunities for strong language. Two agents have reduced their price to 11s. 6d. per lb., and the firm who were taking 12s. 6d. last week now want 14s.

POTASH ACETATE is 8d. to 11d. per lb., according to the nature of the package.

POTASSIUM PERMANGANATE.—Little business doing, and 57s. 6d. per cwt. remains the nominal quotation.

QUININE.—The weaker tendency on the part of second-hand holders was not carried over Tuesday. On Friday and Saturday of last week small sales of old stock were made at 9¹/₂d. and 9³/₄d. per oz., but since then there have been buyers and sellers at 10d., and the market closes firm. At

Amsterdam on Tuesday only 6 of the 26 cases of Bandoeng quinine sulphate sold at 15*fl.* per kilo. (9*d.* per oz.), and the rest was bought in at 15½*fl.* per kilo.

SAFFRON.—Firmer. The best is 35*s.* per lb., and other qualities vary down to 31*s.* 6*d.* per lb. in the importers' hands. Some, however, ask 2*s.* 6*d.* per lb. more, but as practically no business is passing it is difficult to test the position.

SEEDS.—Very little doing. Another 100 bags of weevilid Morocco *Coriander* were offered, without reserve, and sold at 5*s.* per cwt. *Canary-seed* steady; 80 bags middling Spanish sold at auction at 33*s.* per qr. There is a large arrival of new crop Morocco *Fenugreek*, but no demand. No change in either *Anise* or *Cumin*.

SENNA.—No business doing. Buyers are now disposed to wait the arrival of new Tinnevely leaf, the first of which is expected to arrive towards the end of next month, when easier rates may prevail.

SPICES.—*Pepper* and *Pimento* are slightly dearer than last week, but not so much business has been done. Other spices are unchanged. At auction Cochin and Calicut rough *Ginger* sold more freely at steady rates; dull smooth washed rough Cochin at 22*s.* per cwt., and dull, wormy and rough at 15*s.* 6*d.*; 330 bags boldish Calicut rough, sold without reserve at 23*s.* per cwt.; and 23 cases small native cut at 32*s.* 6*d.*. Jamaica sold at 72*s.* 6*d.* to 78*s.* per cwt. for ordinary to middling, and at 88*s.* for good. Zanzibar *Cloves* have fluctuated, but close at about last week's prices; 80 bales sold at auction on the basis of 3½*d.* per lb. for fair; October-December delivery at 3½*d.* per lb. Zanzibar *Chillies* sold at 30*s.* per cwt., for ordinary stalky, but good Japan were bought in at 42*s.* *Nutmegs* and *Mace* quiet, without quotable change. *Pimento* dearer, as we anticipated, business doing privately at 4½*d.* to 4¾*d.* per lb. for ordinary to fair. Singapore black *Pepper* sold at 4½*d.* to 4¾*d.* per lb. for good washed; August-October shipment has been done at 4¾*d.*, after 4¾*d.* having been paid earlier in the week. Penang white dearer at 7½*d.* per lb. on the spot, and at 7¾*d.* for distant shipment. *Cinnamon-chips* sold at 4½*d.* per lb. for good bold clean.

SQUILLS.—Good white and dry has sold at 3*d.* per lb.

THYMOL.—Dearer, owing to the crop of Ajowan seed having turned out poorly. For what was sold last week at 6*s.* 6*d.* per lb. 7*s.* 6*d.* is now wanted.

VANILLA. From Bordeaux we hear that the arrivals of the 1897-98 crop are finished, and the reports from Réunion are unanimous in confirming the estimate of the crop as only half of that of last year. The cyclones in the Islands of Mayotte and Comores have completely devastated all the plantations, and there is only from 15,000 to 20,000 kilos. of vanilla available. The prices are excessively low, and not in keeping with the position of the article. The demand is very active, and during the past fortnight important purchases have been made for home and foreign consumption. Certain qualities, notably the ordinary, are wanting, the rise in prices seems imminent, and we estimate the present moment very propitious for buying in.

VANILLIN.—Pure crystals cost 3*s.* to 3*s.* 3*d.* per oz.

WAX (BEES').—The prices obtained at last sales for Madagascar wax have been repeated in private transactions, but the market is quiet. The demand for Australian has fallen off, and lower prices accepted.

St. Ignatius Bean.

It is reported from Kew that a spurious kind of St. Ignatius bean has appeared on the market. It has been imported as the "Ignatia Amara Bean," from Matto Grosso, Central Brazil, but instead of being the produce of *Strychnos Ignatii* comes from some pod-bearing plant, and, as a matter of fact, are portions of the pod. There appears not to be any cheating in the matter; "St. Ignatius bean" is a name applied to several things in South America, and this happens to be one of them.

KERRY v. ENGLAND.—This Montreal case, regarding a mistake with bismuth, submit., was heard by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council on Wednesday, and judgment was reserved.

Arrivals.

The following is a list of the principal drugs which have arrived in the port of London and other large ports in England since our last statement. The figures indicate the number of original packages (bales, casks, &c.):—

Aloes	5	Liquorice.....	281
Annatto	5	Nutmegs	187
Argol	162	Nux vomica	160
Betel-nut.....	10	Oil of almonds	2
Borax	1056	Oil, aniseed.....	20
Buchu	11	Oil, camphor	625
Button lac	248	Oil, castor	2009
Calumba	1013	Oil, coconut	200
Camphor	547	Oil, cod-liver	26
Caraway-seed.....	301	Oil, limes.....	4
Cardamoms.....	13	Oil, linseed	178
Cassia-fistula	90	Oil, mustard	50
Chillies	72	Oil, olive	2410
Cinchona (E.I.)	593	Opium	178
Cinnamon	105	Orange-flower water.....	72
Cochineal	144	Orris root	62
Cumin-seed.....	62	Pepper	5434
Essences (Sicilian)	188	Phosphorus.....	50
Fennel-seed	66	Quicksilver.....	105
Fenugreek.....	819	Quillaia-bark	761
Gall-nuts.....	100	Quinine	18
Gamboge.....	38	Rhubarb	54
Gentian	24	Rose-water	144
Ginger	404	Saffron.....	3
Gum arabic.....	946	Sandalwood	43
Gum Benjamin	50	Sandarac	62
Gum copal	624	Sarsaparilla	119
Gum dammar.....	71	Shellac.....	1300
Gum Kauri.....	2062	Soy	95
Gum myrrh	7	Sticklac	155
Honey	967	Tamarinds	334
Ipeacuanha	25	Turneric.....	100
Juniper berries	19	Vanilla.....	5
Kola-nuts	57	Wax	1372
Lime-juice	220		

Rival Electrolytes.

Electrolytic Alkali in Chancery.

MR. JUSTICE BIGHAM had before him on Thursday the case of the Castner-Kellner Alkali Company (Limited) v. Commercial Development Company (Limited). The plaintiffs submitted to his Lordship that the defendants had infringed their patents, and asked him to restrain them. Both methods have been described in the *C. & D.*, and need not be described again. Mr. Fletcher Moulton, Q.C. (who appeared for the plaintiffs) began to tell his Lordship all about the Castner-Kellner process, but he had not got to the end of his story when the Court adjourned for the day. We are compelled, therefore, to return to the matter next week.

Plymouth, Stonehouse, Devonport and District Chemists' Association.

A LARGELY-ATTENDED MEETING was held on Wednesday last, Mr. J. Cocks, President, in the chair. The withdrawal of the Poisons Bill was reported and noted with satisfaction. The President, Mr. Park, and Mr. J. D. Turney were the appointed delegates to attend the forthcoming meeting of the British Pharmaceutical Conference in Belfast, and were instructed to extend a cordial invitation to the Conference to visit Plymouth in 1899. The prizes won by junior members of the Association at the examination recently held were presented by Mr. J. D. Turney, who referred to the success of Messrs. Hellyer and Reynolds in the recent herbarium competition of the Pharmaceutical Society—the first-mentioned having obtained the silver medal and the latter the certificate of honour. Prizes were next awarded to Mr. Vibert for pharmacy, Mr. Downing for materia medica, and Mr. Hellyer for best aggregate. It was reported that arrangements had now been made to work these classes in connection with the Plymouth Technical Schools. The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to Messrs. Reade and Johnson for their kindness in holding classes for the junior members of the Association.