

Two interpretations have been made of these words. The one being, that it was only intended to cover patent medicines and drugs which are not usually kept other than in a drug store, such as preparations of mercury, potassium, opium, etc., and the other, which is the one most generally adopted and very reasonably so, viz., that it covers all medicines including epsom salts, sulphur, and others of a similar nature. It is very unfortunate that such a wording should have been placed there and no matter whichever of the constructions named, be placed on them, the omission of such a clause would have done but little harm and prevented an attack of what we consider is its weakest point, and while we believe that all such medicines should only be sold by druggists, looking at it from the view of public safety, yet the fact that so much is asked, will have the effect of retarding, if not of defeating, the more necessary clauses.

AS IT AFFECTS PHYSICIANS.

Some medical men have expressed their entire approval of the clauses in the proposed amendment, as affecting their profession, while others are opposed to them *in toto*.

These clauses make it necessary that any physician in an incorporated city or town, who desires to carry on a drug business, must cease to practice as a physician or surgeon, and must pass an examination for the degree of Ph. M. B. of the Toronto University. Many physicians consider that their degree of M. D. is quite sufficient to qualify them for carrying on a drug business, and that it would be *infra dig.* for them to undergo any such examination as proposed.

They forget, however, that pharmacy is now a recognized profession, and that all professions now claim protection on the grounds of legal qualification, as in the case of lawyers, dentists, civil engineers, etc. In this matter of carrying on a drug business, we have a precedent in the case of the Province of Quebec, where, in the only cities of importance, in that province, viz., in Montreal and Quebec, the same law prevails which is asked for from the Legislature of this Province.

AS IT AFFECTS THE SALE OF PARIS GREEN, ETC.

No one we think can with any show of reason object to the clauses relating to the sale of Paris Green and London Purple, two of the most dangerous poisons which are in extensive use, and the former of which is too often the agent used in suicide and crime!

The Act as at present in force in regard to these two poisons is almost a "dead letter" as hardware merchants and general dealers sell without any regard to the provisions of the Act, and unless measures are taken to enforce the proposed amendment, it seems like waste time to discuss it.

AS IT AFFECTS APPRENTICES.

We must confess that we are not in sympathy with those who are always striv-

ing for that "higher education." In our public schools and collegiate institutes the method of "cranning" which is at present in vogue and the seeming endeavors of the Educational Department to give every one a professional education, ignoring in a measure the useful branches, is in our opinion to be deplored. We are likewise opposed to any higher educational standard being exacted from those who propose learning the drug business, than that at present in force.

That the same feeling which has actuated the members of the Council in preparing this amendment, is not confined to this province, we might instance the case of Massachusetts where a bill has been presented to the Legislature of that State asking that "when the State Board of Health are satisfied from their knowledge that a proprietary medicine contains the poisonous ingredients mentioned in the Act, in such quantities as to be dangerous to public health, said Board shall send notice to the State Board of Registration in Pharmacy" (which is appointed by the Governor of State) "who shall notify the druggists of the State, stating that the medicine contains poisonous ingredients and comes within the law."

A bill has also been introduced in the Legislature of New York State, providing that proprietary preparations shall be subject to inspection by the State Board of Health. In neither of these cases, we believe, has this legislation been asked for by the drug trade, but comes directly from the public. The Pharmacy Act of Great Britain contains a clause which it has been shown prevents the sale of proprietaries containing poison unless by druggists, and also that these remedies should be labeled poison. As a result of a test case there the Metropolitan Grocers' and Provision-dealers' Association has published a list of 43 Proprietary remedies which it cautions grocers not to handle.

Pills of Iodide of Potassium.

A Belgian pharmaceutical society has offered a prize for a method for the preparation of pills of potassium iodide, in competition for which the following have been submitted, among others: (1) 5 parts of potassium iodide are powdered as fine as possible and mixed with 1 part of starch and sufficient simple syrup to make a soft mass. The mass must be worked, or it will not be plastic enough. The pills are dusted with starch. (2) 3 parts of potassium iodide are intimately mixed with 1 part of neutral cacao butter and enough vaseline to form a mass, and the pills rolled in talc powder. To avoid touching the pills with the fingers, it is well to operate with rubber finger stalls. The pills are then washed with water to remove the iodide from the outermost layers, and dried between sheets of filter paper. They should not be touched with the fingers after drying. These pills remain unchanged in moist air, and even below the

surface of water. The only precaution necessary is that the vaseline be free from water. (3) 5 parts of potassium iodide are dissolved in 4 parts of water; 2 parts of powdered gum are added to the solution, and enough powdered clay to make a soft mass, which should be rolled into pills at once. Dust with powdered clay. (4) 2 parts of potassium iodide, 1.5 parts of powdered castile soap, 1 part of cacao butter are well mixed with enough vaseline to form a mass. The pills are dusted with talc powder.—*Journ. de Pharm.*

Fehling's Solution.

The stability of this valuable reagent has been assured, according to *Rossel*, by substitution of glycerine, free from acrolein, for tartaric acid, and the following formula has been suggested by him—34.56 grammes of pure cupric sulphate are dissolved in distilled water, and after the addition of 150.0 grammes of glycerine, and 130.0 grammes of caustic potash, the volume of the solution is made up to 1000 C. c.—1 C. c. of this solution corresponds to 5 milligrams of glucose.—*Pharm. Zeitz.*

Annual Meeting of the National Wholesale Druggists' Association.

Jas. E. Davis, President of the National Wholesale Druggists' Association, under date of March 20, has sent out the following circular letter to members:—

It has not been customary, at so early a date, to notify the members of the National Wholesale Druggists' Association of the date of the annual meeting.

This year, however, is a peculiar one, on account of the World's Fair, and the fact that the next annual meeting will take place in Detroit, which is only 284 miles from Chicago, or about six hours' ride by railroad.

As many members of the Association undoubtedly intend "to kill two birds with one stone," and take in the National Wholesale Druggists' Association meeting, as well as the World's Fair, at the same time, the Committee on Arrangements and Entertainment, approved by the Board of Control and the President, have named the dates of September 11 to 14, inclusive, as the dates of the next annual meeting to be held in Detroit.

You will please note that this will give ample opportunity to close your previous month's business before leaving for Detroit, and also to have ample time to see the World's Fair in Chicago and to return to your place of business before the beginning of the following month. As many members are now very desirous of making their arrangements, and securing accommodations to see the World's Fair, I consider it necessary at this early day to notify you as above.

Profitable trade, like profitable crops, requires cultivation. Only weeds grow spontaneously.