

Editorial.

LAW RESPECTING WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

A correspondent sends us a circular issued by an Inspector of Weights and Measures, for the County of Ontario, and asks whether druggists are subject to the same law as other traders. As many of our readers will, no doubt, receive a similar notification, it may be as well to give a general answer to the inquiry.

The portions of the circular which may be held as applying to traders, are those referring to weights and measures. With regard to the former, it is stated that "all iron or cast-metal weights *must* be bored and plugged with lead for the purpose of taking the Government stamp. Weights from one pound down must be made of solid brass or bronze; cased metal weights not allowed." Of measures it is said, "The old wine gallon is now entirely abolished (except where special contracts are in existence), and parties requiring measures of this kind must *at once* furnish themselves with the new standard gallon, which is one-fifth larger than the old measure; measuring by the old gallon being prohibited."

There can be no doubt but that the Weights and Measures Act of 1873—under which the Inspectors are appointed—is intended to include druggists as well as all others engaged in the sale of any commodity. The above statement as to the old gallon being prohibited is not strictly correct, as the prohibition is indirect. The law, Sec. 28, declares it illegal for any "trader, manufacturer, carrier, public weigher, gauger, surveyor, or other person" * * * to "offer for sale or use, for any purpose of buying, selling, or charging for the carriage of any goods, wares, merchandise, or thing, or of measuring any work, land, goods, material, or other thing, for the purpose of charging for, or ascertaining the price to be paid, or the charge to be made therefor, any weight, or measure, or weighing machine which has not been duly inspected and stamped according to this Act, or which may be found light, etc." The prohibition is, therefore, indirect, but virtually amounts to the same thing.

A perusal of the Act reveals nothing regarding the material of which weights must be made, but we find that by an order in Coun-