

sociations in Ontario and elsewhere, read letters which had been received from the president (Mr. Gebhardt) and secretary (Mr. Pepper) of the Ontario Retail Druggists' Association describing the condition of affairs in that Province, and the methods employed to try and overcome the "cutting" evil. Copies of their constitution and by laws were also submitted. After some informal discussion and remarks by different members, Mr. William Hawker moved that these replies and documents be placed on file, and the thanks of the society extended to these gentlemen and to the committee. This motion was seconded by Mr. W. H. Clark, and carried. Mr. Clark, in seconding the motion, called attention to recent prosecutions in Montreal, and decision preventing sale of Patent Medicines except by registered persons, and asked if similar legislation could be obtained in New Brunswick. The general opinion of the members was that it would be impracticable except in cities. Election of council members was next in order, and twenty-two names were placed in nomination, and Messrs. R. W. McCarty and T. C. Donald being appointed scrutineers, a ballot was taken, and the committee reported that the following twelve gentlemen had received a majority of the votes, and would form the council of the society for the ensuing year:—

Messrs. Struan Robertson, E. Clinton Brown, M. V. Paddock, R. E. Coupe, H. J. Dick, J. D. B. F. Mackenzie, J. M. Wiley, Chas. F. Wade, C. H. Fairweather, W. H. Clark, T. A. Crockett, W. H. Mowatt.

There were calls now for a speech, and the retiring president delivered the following address:—

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Gentlemen, members of the Pharmaceutical Society of New Brunswick.

Another year has passed away, and again we meet for the transaction of such business as may come before us as members of this society. The past year has been quite an uneventful one. Very few changes of any note have taken place, we have had no litigation on hand and no prosecutions for violation of Pharmacy Act. We have had some necessary legislation, the principal part of which has been the exemption of druggists from jury duty, which I think is a very important provision, and I trust will commend itself to your approval.

It is a matter of regret that there is so little interest taken in the annual meeting of this society outside the City of St. John. If it were not for the interest taken in the society by the druggists of this city our association would almost cease to exist, and as an outsider, I desire to express my obligation to the gentlemen who have so well carried out the business of the society at a considerable sacrifice of their time. For myself, although unable to be present at many meetings of the council, I have always felt that in the

hands of the members of the council in St. John the interests of the society were perfectly safe.

When we consider the question from merely a business standpoint, it seems to me that, in our own personal interest, there should be a large attendance at our annual meetings.

For myself, I always look forward to this time with the greatest pleasure, and would regret very much should any engagement prevent me from being present, as the friendships I have formed and the pleasant days I have spent at these meetings are among my happiest recollections. In this connection might I quote from an article which appeared in one of the journals lately—it says: "Think twice before you make up your mind that you cannot afford the outlay of time or money required to attend some gathering of representative pharmacists this summer. The expense does not signify a useless luxury by any means, it partakes more of the return of an investment, and the profit resides in the improved health, the added vigor, the new ideas derived from contact with our colleagues, the schemes which one picks up in conversation, the hints which men can not fail to let fall when they talk about their business. A merchant must keep up with the times, he must replenish his stock of ideas periodically, and nothing affords a better chance of renewing our resources than the annual convention."

We live but once, and we are a long time dead, what folly to be so absorbed in business as to find our best days gone before we have fairly begun to enjoy them! All classes of men are the better for an occasional bit of recreation, and no class can less afford to dispense with the annual change than that comprising the hard-working druggists of the land. No evenings and often no Sundays—let us at least cling to our annual outing, and make the most of it." In this connection, I would address the younger members of our society. Theirs is the greater interest, they are just stepping into the work, and by taking a lively interest in the society, they will, I think, find it pleasing and profitable. I hope that arrangements will be made at this meeting for papers to be read at our next annual meeting by some of the members of our society.

The reports of the various officers shows that our society is in a flourishing condition financially.

In conclusion, allow me to thank you for having elected me to the office of president, and I trust that our meeting together at this time will be in the best interests of the society and also pleasant and profitable individually.

J. M. WILFV,
President

When the applause had subsided, a vote of thanks was moved to the president for his very instructive and inspiring address, and it was ordered to be entered on the minutes.

Mr. W. H. Clark, of St. Stephen, was called upon to read his paper, the title of which he announced to be "Why?"

WHY?

Outside of words representing the names of God and kindred words there is no word in the English language that means so much as the word why. We all know, especially those of us who are fathers, that almost the first intelligent question which the child asks is "why." Why is this done? Why is that other thing used? Why do we like one thing better than another? The whys are endless, and it is a good sign in the child. The questions should not be repressed, but answered as far as possible, because it shows that the child is waking up to its surroundings and wants to find out the reason for things. Why am I here? Why are all these things around me? What connection have they with me?

If the spirit of inquiry only stays with the boy and the man, then we will have a Newton, or a Galileo, or an Edison, or a Pasteur, and the law of gravitation is discovered, or a correct system of astronomy, or our wonderful development of electricity, or the vast strides in medical knowledge; if it were not for the ones who ask why? of their fellows and of nature, we would be a set of barbarians.

There is no branch of knowledge or practical science in which the word why has been used more effectually than in medicine, pharmacy, and chemistry, that is in our profession. Among the Chinese, where they do not ask why, their idea of medicine is to get the vilest possible dose down the throat of the patient. Their idea of pharmacy, getting together a hundred ingredients, and the more pounds weight at a dose the better. Their idea of chemistry, nothing. And much of their other knowledge is on a par with the foregoing.

Contrast it with the advances in all these branches by those who do ask why in chemistry. What wonderful strides, resulting, not only in a better idea of natural objects, but in benefit to mankind.

I might write a long paper about the results in different directions of asking why, but at present I will confine myself to ourselves as practical druggists and caterers to the public wants.

The first why is the child's. Why am I here? I must have been placed in this world for some purpose. What is it? A very large number of men say practically, if not in words, I am here to spend my time in my own pleasure, enjoy all I can of this life, and then lie down and die. What an inglorious ambition! Others say practically, I am here to make money, the more the better, the fact that I cannot take a cent of it with me when I leave here is nothing. Let me accumulate a good lot of money, and life's work is accomplished. Now I am not going to say that money-making is a bad thing. To make money is good; first, because