

at Kentville, is taking a well-earned rest in Boston. W. A. Simson is now in charge of that drug business.

Notes From England.

(By Our Own Correspondent.)

The holiday season is now in full swing in England and most of the principal pharmacists are out of town. The President of the Pharmaceutical Society proceeds to Chicago next week and has been commissioned by the Council to convey the Hanbury Medal to Professor Maisch, of Philadelphia. This award is made triennially to a distinguished pharmacognosist, and Professor Maisch will find himself in good company, when I mention that previous recipients include Dragendorff, Howard, Hesse, Hanchon and others.

Referring again to the holiday season I was somewhat surprised to be told by a leading druggist at one of the popular sea side resorts, that the tourist trade was very little good to the craft. It is a very different thing to the invalid winter residents, who are the most important sources of revenue to druggists at these places. Holiday folk appear to enjoy the sea breezes with unflinching good health, and even the lady visitors frequently despise those toilet adjuncts, such as milk of roses, etc., which used to prove profitable to the chemist and indispensable to the sun-burnt visitors. I have also asserted that it would pay at least one chemist in each of the principal sea-side holiday resorts to fix up a soda water counter and dispense the iced drinks which are so much in request during the hot weather. The idea has been taken up in one or two instances and has proved an unqualified success, but few have attempted it in the in which our American cousins work the soda trade. I can quite understand that French and German pharmacists would consider it eminently unprofessional, but then they do not sell perfumes, brushes, etc., which in many an English business are responsible for more of the profits than the dispensing department.

The occupation of analytical chemist is being played rather low in England lately, where some of the cult actually tout for analytical work. We have become accustomed to the sight of keen competition for business in this department by the gradual reduction of fees and the number of applicants for even minor posts. The latest departure, however, deserves to be pilloried. It is in the form of a circular which is addressed to manufacturing chemists, wholesale druggists, etc., in which the analyst assures the firm that it would be materially to their advantage to submit their preparations to him for analysis. In addition to the advantage of having their preparations scientifically examined, the analyst guarantees a certain amount of publicity to his report and encloses samples of his eminently laudatory "puffs." The Royal

Society has recently issued a caution to its Fellows, pointing out that the lavish praise which too often marks an analytical report savours of a commercial interest in the matter, beyond that of a professional and unbiased opinion. As long as the title of analytical and consulting chemist is open to any one who cares to assume it, the professional spirit will be swamped by the commercialism of the age.

Accidents in pharmacy are comparatively rare considering the number and nature of the dangerous substances to be found in every chemist's shop. It has often occurred to me that a very useful chapter might be made of those that have occurred, which would prove as a guide and warning to all. The type of pharmaceutical explosives—torpedoes, they have humorously been called—such as alcohol, glycerine, etc., with chromic acid, permanganate of potash powdered with organic substances, chlorates with strong acids, etc., would form one section. The dangers attached to the handling and using of alcohol—so important an article in pharmacy—would certainly form another. Several accidents, to my personal knowledge, have happened from the foolish practice of warming alcoholic preparations so as to hasten solution. Not long ago a firm of druggists had a conflagration owing to a man heating alcohol and coal tar in a pan not very far from a naked light! In a large methylating establishment, where 5,000 gallons of strong spirit are mixed off at a time, I have seen the men smoking or carrying open lights! A serious accident lately occurred whilst a workman was repairing a recently-emptied spirit tank. It appears that he put his red-hot soldering iron through the tap-hole when a violent explosion took place. The man was badly injured and the tank completely destroyed.

The meeting of the British Pharmaceutical Conference, which has just taken place at Nottingham, was highly successful, although no startling discoveries were announced. The papers were hardly up to the average, but the discussions were more instructive. Liquid belladonna plaster, or collodion belladonna, received double attention from Wright and Naylor. Conroy gave, as the result of extended examination of samples of sandal wood oil, the specific gravity of .872 as a minimum. Parry and Estcourt announced that much of the bees' wax in pharmacy was adulterated, but the discussion did not confirm this opinion. Easton's syrup is a perennial subject for investigation and Wright's suggestions to reduce the amount of acid and sugar were not novel. Effervescent caffeine preparations are not all they seem, according to Ough. White described at length several preparations of thyroid gland, but medical men generally are quite uninterested in the subject, as about 99 per cent. have never seen a case of myxedema outside the hospitals. A useful paper on *ipecacuanha* deprived of emetine by percolation with ammoniated chloroform, was given by Bird. The

botanical origin of *ipecacuanha* was also treated by E. M. Holmes. Dott gave the formula of lithium nitrate as $\text{Li NO}_3 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$, and in another paper on the diastatic action on starch described methods for the determination by means of the old iodine test. African copaiiba was compared by Umney with the South American article to the advantage of the latter. The next meeting will take place at Oxford under the presidency of Mr. N. H. Martin, of Brady & Martin, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Pharmaceutical Association of the Province of Quebec.

NOTICE TO STUDENTS.

The Semi-Annual Examination for Major and Minor candidates will commence on Tuesday, October 17th, 1893, at 9.00 a.m., and will be held in Laval University, Quebec. Candidates must file their applications, duly certified, with the Registrar, on or before the 7th of October. Printed regulations and form of application must be obtained from the Registrar, and be duly signed by the applicant.

Candidates who have failed more than once in their examinations will be required to pay the full examination fee.

The Council having instructed the Registrar to enforce the rule requiring from candidates for examination, ten days' notice, prior to the date fixed for the examinations, no application will be accepted after the 7th day of October.

E. MUIR, Secy.-Registrar,

595 LaGauchetiere Street.

Montreal, Sept. 8th, 1893.

Pumice Stone.

A mine of pumice stone exists on the Tenerife Peak, of which the working was only started in 1888. The stone is found in that part of the peak called "Canales," at about 2,000 feet above sea-level, which has an area of some 6,000 hectares, out of the middle of which rises the highest part of the peak. The Russian consul at St. Croix bought the property of the Spanish Government in consideration of an annual payment for the pumice stone working. The Russian consul has associated himself with a Belgian, and they, under the firm styled Aguilar and Valcke, commenced operations in 1888, but it was only last year that exportation was really started. At the Paris exhibition, the Consul-General states, this stone obtained a silver medal, and in view of the requirements of England, France and America, he believes it will develop a trade of great importance before many years. So far the Lipari Islands have practically furnished the world's supply of this product, exporting about 100,000 tons per annum. The Tenerife stone being recognized as of excellent quality, and its extraction being of a much more simple matter than in the Lipari Islands, it follows that the price is much less.