

Pharmacy in England.

Resignation of Professor Atfield—The "Nurses" Exhibition—Bottles, Dispensing and Others—A New Powder Insufflator—Eucaine and Lactophenine.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Resignation is the order of the day. In swift succession I have had to chronicle the retirement of Mr. Schacht, the resignation of Professor Dunstan, the determination of Mr. Carteighe not to be re-elected president of the Pharmaceutical Society after fourteen years in that position, and now Professor John Atfield, F.R.S., has sent in his resignation as Professor of Practical Pharmacy. The idea that the council have in mind of making the Professor of Chemistry, theoretical and practical, also the director of the Research Laboratory is praiseworthy, but will probably be found inconvenient. It is true that by the amalgamation they will be in a position to guarantee a salary of not less than \$3,000 per annum to the professor, but the retirement of Atfield is a great loss to the prestige of the School of Pharmacy at Bloomsbury Square. Since the death of Redwood, the name of Atfield was the principal attraction for students at the premier English school of pharmacy. With a world-wide reputation, both as an investigator and as an author, Atfield was still a name to conjure with. And now, whom have we left? Professor Green is a junior in reputation, although an intellectual giant. Mr. Joseph Ince is within sight of the date when active work will be too much for him, and Professor Greenish is a very young man. If the council had been well advised they would have occupied the next few years in preparing a suitable successor to Professor Atfield, instead of making the bareness of the teaching talent only the more glaring at the present moment. One thing is very certain, if the trouble with Professor Dunstan and his researches on subjects outside of pharmacy teaches anything, it means that a pharmaceutical man must be elected as professor and not an outsider. Will the council appreciate this point? This is the question of the moment.

The "Nurseries" is the appropriate title bestowed upon the exhibition inaugurated by the initiative of the *Nursing Record*. Presumably it was intended to get medical men as well as nurses to visit the exhibition, but this was not very successful. Another mistake is to run such an exhibition for such a length of time as thirteen days. The matter for attraction was not sufficiently large, and every nurse in the metropolis could have visited the exhibition easily within six days, which would have been quite long enough. Allowance must be made for the fact that this is the first attempt at anything of the kind, and if it should be repeated experience will alter all this. Maw, Son & Thompson made a very complete display of instruments, hygienic sundries, and a

useful "Handbook for Nurses." This latter has always seemed to me a model that pharmacists would do well to imitate. On the continent it is by no means unusual for some of the principal chemists to publish similar "handbooks," containing useful hints on the treatment of minor ailments and wounds and a detailed description of the special preparations of the house. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co. had also a good show of their well-known tabloids. Dermatol—the basic gallate of bismuth—is strongly recommended as a dusting powder in eczema, bedsores, etc. Sanitas was prominently displayed by the company, but they are now making other disinfectants besides. This is, I believe, because the Sanitas Company used to lose many a good slice of a contract for disinfectants because carbolic acid or permanganate was not supplied by them. They are anxious to let you know that their faith in Sanitas as the disinfectant *par excellence* is not on the wane because they offer to quote for other disinfectants. Reynolds & Branson, of Leeds, are to be congratulated upon their first appearance at a metropolitan exhibition. Of recent years someone connected with the firm—possibly young Mr. Fred Reynolds—has displayed pretty skill and ingenuity in devising little improvements, such as the hand-axe shoot, the pill-box shoot, enema clips, self-closing dust-proof drawers, etc. Many of these are so simple, and yet so obviously useful and effective, that one only wonders why on earth the idea was not hit upon years ago. Southall Bros. & Barclay are the only other pharmaceutical firm exhibiting, and their space was devoted chiefly to the well-known Sanitary towels.

There is no detail in connection with dispensing that is more important than the style of bottle and label. A chemist who is satisfied with the cheapest containers obtainable, and adopts stock labels, is missing one of the most important details of the calling. The public cannot discriminate between the contents as dispensed at a cheap drug store and that of a leading pharmacist, but superior "finishing off" is appreciable to the meanest intellect. At the West end it has become usual to send all mixtures out in round-cornered bottles, either squares or flats. At Savory and Moore's the round-cornered square is favored, whilst Bell & Co. adopt the round-cornered flat. This style of bottle is certainly superior in appearance to the old dispensing flats and squares, and the varying tints of greens and blues are replaced by what is called the "quinine-tint." For displaying packed goods, such as cod-liver oil, etc., this quinine-tinted, round-cornered, flat bottle is one of the best, but it is a mistake to put everything into this kind of bottle. Glycerine, for instance, if perfectly water-white, as it should be, is displayed much better in a white flint panelled bottle, but good bottles must be chosen, or the little specks and air-bubbles in inferior flint spoil the brilliancy of the preparation. Labels should be obtained to fit the bottles instead of

stock ones being used. Thus a good-sized cod-liver oil label looks well on the round-cornered flat, and the appearance is, if anything, improved by its overlapping the sides partly. But a glycerine label should just fit in the front of the bottle and not overlap—if panelled bottles are adopted. I am convinced that it pays chemists to have their own special design for important labels, such as dispensing labels and any little proprietary. These should be obtained from a good label printer in the form of a sketch at first, so that the features to which prominence is required may be properly worked out. Then the quality of paper should be good, and a delicate groundwork is a great improvement, especially if it be a contrast color to the general tone of the label.

Messrs. Slater Bros., of Baker street, London, have just shown me a new insufflator that has some striking advantages over the ordinary powder-blowing instrument. The principle employed is that by means of compressed air, obtained from the ordinary double bellows of enemas or atomizers, the powder is blown from a reservoir when the exit is released by a trigger. The operation is therefore something similar to firing a revolver, and the glass barrel of the insufflator is shaped after this fashion. First of all, the bellows are compressed in the usual way until no more air can be pumped in, then the instrument is introduced into the mouth of the patient, or wherever the insufflation is required, and the tube directed at the desired spot. By merely touching a trigger with the index finger the powder is discharged as a momentary explosion, and as only one hand need be employed during the whole time the advantage of this form of insufflator is obvious. For iodoform blowing, etc., it will be found the most useful instrument yet suggested, and I understand that the apparatus has been patented. Messrs. Slater represent in England Messrs. Ellis & Gottermann, of New York, whose atomizers, fountain syringes, etc., are widely known.

Among the new remedies that are being somewhat largely employed by medical men in London just now, special prominence must be given to eucaine and lactophenine. Eucaine is the threatened rival to cocaine, but it is just possible that cocaine may outlive its rival. The new anæsthetic is stated to be equal to cocaine in its local effects, whilst absolutely its superior in not affecting the heart or producing unpleasant after effects. So far it has been tried chiefly in dental practice, and 20 to 60 minims injected of a 15 per cent. solution. In this proportion it is only soluble in warm water. Eucaine is offered cheaper than cocaine, and as it is a synthetical body it is probable that our German friends are not giving it away at the price of \$2.50 per ounce. Lactophenine appears to have some advantages over antipyrine and antifebrin, inasmuch as besides its antipyretic, antineuralgic, and antirheumatic action it has a marked soothing, hypnotic effect. Even children