

Pharmaceutical Association of Manitoba.

The annual meeting of the Pharmaceutical Association of Manitoba, which took the form of a convention, for the first time, was held on Friday, the 23rd inst., in the Sons of England hall, Portage avenue, Winnipeg. The gathering, though well representing numerous parts of the province, would have been larger had there been fewer attractions for strangers on that day in the city.

Proceedings were opened by the president (Mr. Flexon), who extended, on behalf of the council, a cordial welcome to visiting members, and thanked them for their attendance. He remarked that the council had for some time realized an attitude of indifference on the part of the Association, and had made this desperate effort to bring, if possible, all the members of the Association together to discuss matters of importance, commercial as well as pharmaceutical. Some papers of much value, he stated, would be read and discussed, and he was sure the writers of the papers had given their subjects thorough attention. He was equally sure the same gentlemen desired free criticism of the views contained in the papers. He lamented the fact that the annual meetings of the past had been attended by very few of the members, and felt aggrieved and ashamed that such indifference should exist. The council had taken the utmost pains to do its duty to the Association, and had it transacted the work of the Association with carelessness, or apathy, it could not have been blamed; but fidelity had been constant, not for the mere love of the work, but for the sole desire to bring the Association to a standard of recognition by the older and larger Pharmaceutical Associations of Ontario and Quebec. In concluding his preliminary remarks the president took occasion to tender the thanks of the council and of the Association to Messrs. Martin, Bole & Wynne Co. for their generous invitation to dinner at the Clarendon hotel.

The order of business then began, and, after the statement of the treasurer, and the reports of the registrar and auditors had been disposed of, the president, in his address, briefly reviewed the present conditions and declared himself well satisfied with the financial affairs of the Association, pointing out the large increase in the assets, and the steady decrease in the liabilities up to March 1st of this year, and which have been since reduced by \$175. He believed the future prosperity of the Association was assured, if the members were true to their charter and lived up to its principles and were faithful to its by-laws. A comparison of the Acts of Quebec and Ontario was made, and though perhaps the Manitoba Act lacked the clearness of expression and the comprehensiveness of that of the first-named province, he considered it had so far well suited their needs. A few examples of clearness, showing not only the absence of

vagueness, but the impossibility of misinterpretation were then read. On turning to the Ontario Act he found therein some features unlike anything in their own. Sub-section 2 of section 4, for instance, requiring every member of the council to be actively engaged in business for himself, and the following sub section relating to the territorial divisions of Ontario. By-laws 13 and 15 of the same Act were read to show that while in that province there are six examiners appointed on a salary of \$20 each, for the six subjects, the Pharmaceutical Association of Manitoba employed but three examiners at a salary of \$10 each. He proceeded to say that however well or indifferently framed acts and by-laws may be they do not and cannot control the ebb and flow of the drug trade. Causes are at work which will undermine any branch of commerce, one of the foremost and hardest to deal with in the drug trade being the alarming proportions of druggists to given populations, and while he could not understand the druggists of the lower province complaining with about one druggist to every 6,000 people, it was very easy to understand the protests which were heard in Ontario, where the proportions were one in 2,400, and still much easier to account for the pitiful cry which came from Toronto, in which city one druggist to every 1,300 people could be found struggling to make a living. There were other causes he had no doubt for the unwelcome conditions of the drug trade, but which would likely be presented during the day's discussion. The satisfactory work done in the lecture room for the last two courses was referred to. Dr. Hutton had been aided very much by the separation of the minor and major lectures—the two courses now running concurrently—the minor beginning in September and finishing at Christmas time, immediately followed by an examination, and the major beginning in January and expiring on May 1, followed by the major examination. Thus each term has four months, and a candidate, if he has been four years in the business, can take his minor lectures, and if at the end of the term he pass his examination can go at once into the major term. During the term of office of the present council thirty-two students had written on their minor examination, fifteen of whom had failed, and six out of seventeen had come to grief in their major. The slaughter he thought was no larger than with Pharmaceutical examinations elsewhere. The large percentage of failures could not be accounted for. The cause would not be due to the teaching, as the disasters were as proportionately as large in Philadelphia, Montreal, Toronto, and other large cities, where the very best of teachers are to be found, and where the most ample means for acquiring pharmaceutical knowledge are at the convenience of the student. Much he thought could justifiably be done by examiners in endeavoring to put the candidates at ease, and to calm their minds in the examination room. The improvements in the pharmaceutical

laboratory at the medical college, and the onerous duty of lecturing now solely devolving on Dr. Hutton, who had applied for assistance in this respect, but funds were not available to meet his request. With a brief reference to members' fees, explaining why the council had not seen its way clear to make any reductions, the president, under the next order, which was that of miscellaneous business, called for the reading of papers. To say that the papers were exceedingly interesting would but ill define their remarkably clever authors. With the exception of Mr. Flexon's paper, which required no discussion, as it was simply a review of chemistry for the 60 years of Her Majesty's reign, the papers of Mr. F. E. Arkell, of Carberry; Mr. A. T. Andrews, of Gladstone, and Dr. Hutton and Mr. John F. Howard, of this city, were proofs of the practical minds of these gentlemen. Some such scheme as that advocated by the first-named in his "Drug Trade of the West and How to Protect It," would undoubtedly prove beneficial to the drug trade of the province, and would just as certainly regulate the elections, and in this way prevent any connivance of members of the Association situated in Winnipeg in running a ticket to suit themselves; but it is a question if the membership of 95 is large enough to divide the province into six or any other number of districts for the purposes mentioned. The subject, considering its breadth and scope, could not at the limited time of the convention, receive the exhaustive treatment which it deserves; but the proper attention will be given to it at the next council meeting. "Side Lines that Pay" is a very absorbing topic, especially in the hands of Mr. Andrews. Living, as he says, in a country town he has naturally written from his own standpoint, and very skilfully has he accomplished the task. Some of his fellow country druggists might receive inspiration by a perusal of his paper. The views of Dr. Hutton on "Pharmaceutical Training and Education" were listened to with a great deal of pleasure, and if his suggestions were acted upon there would be no mentally unripe youths entering drug stores. He laid great stress on the necessity of a student possessing a grounded habit of study. The doctor was particularly happy and to the point in speaking of the apprentice in the following terms: "If he shows a willingness to work and to learn, and his employer takes an interest in him, and sees that he is enabled to devote say an hour a day in directed study. If he is fortunate enough to be in a store where the tinctures are not all made from fluid extracts, and where as many as possible of the galenical preparations are made on the premises, and where the various steps in their manufacture are explained to him. If the prescriptions received at the store are written by several men who think for themselves when they prescribe, and are dispensed by the mixture of preparations which he has seen made—then will that apprentice render an account of himself