

ment and further, that we are in perfect accord with the druggists in their opposition to such unjustifiable attack on this Act, as we consider that the Act is a safeguard to the well-being of the public, which it would be dangerous to set aside. Lyman Sons & Co., Kerry, Watson & Co., Evans & Sons, Limited, Lyman, Knox & Co., Parke, Davis & Co."

The following letter which appeared in the *Montreal Gazette*, from a prominent druggist, certainly sets forth the case very clearly:

To the Editor of the *Gazette*:

SIR,—May I, through the medium of your columns, beg of the members of the Quebec Legislature to pause a while before amending the Pharmacy Act in the sense proposed by the Montreal Retail Grocers' Association? There are many reasons why such retrograde legislation should not be accomplished. It is plain to every thoughtful mind that it is requisite for the well-being of any community that a body of men having such important functions to perform as have pharmacists, should be educated specially for the purpose, and it is a mere matter of justice that, in protecting the public interest, the Legislature, which lays down a long and severe curriculum of study for pharmacists, should protect them to a certain extent against competition from persons who have not undergone this training; just as lawyers, physicians and notaries are protected.

A rather flippant member of the Legislature, in committee, a few days since, said: "Let pharmacists confine themselves to the sale of poisons on the schedule, and the dispensing of prescriptions." Surely this man ought to know that if such were to be the case Montreal would not be able to support a dozen pharmacists. However, it so happens that poisons placed on the poison schedule of the Act are only those of a particularly dangerous kind. There are, outside of the list, hundreds of drugs and chemicals which are dangerous, not only to those who buy them, but also, to some extent, to those who handle them.

I ask reasonable men whether they would wish to deal with a grocer who keeps a stock of drugs and chemicals in the same shop with tea, coffee, sugar butter, flour, and so on. Even pharmacists, who know how to handle drugs, have the greatest difficulty in keeping some of the more pungent ones from infecting, with their odor, everything of an

absorbent character which they sell. Is it likely that the drug grocer would be able to keep articles of food from being tainted with drugs?

Then there is the vexed question of patent medicines. Now, from where I sit, I can see in my show-case three different specialties of this kind. One contains 1/60 of a grain of strychnine in each two teaspoonfuls; another contains morphine; and the other, without the slightest doubt, contains cocaine. I have, and I am sure many of my confreres have, done the same, stopped many individuals from becoming habitual users of this latter. Is it judicious to have these dangerous preparations on every corner groceryman's counter?

Of course, the two leading advocates of the grocers in the Legislature continually try to make it appear that the pharmacists want to stop grocers from selling such things as linseed, linseed meal, gum arabic, etc. The assertion is absurd, and is only used to throw dust in the eyes of the country members of the House. The Pharmaceutical Association has never prosecuted in such cases, and it is not opposed to the introduction of a clause in the Pharmacy Act permitting storekeepers in country districts, where pharmacists do not exist, to sell the ordinary drugs and specialties called for by his customers. To extend such permission to grocers in cities like Montreal, where pharmacies are met with at every corner, would be retrograde legislation, and would be productive of much harm to the community.

CHEMISTS.

The International Pharmacopœia.

A committee has been appointed by the Royal Academy of Medicine of Brussels to draw up a preliminary scheme for "An International Pharmacopœia."

It will be remembered that a committee consisting of Messrs. Carteighe, of London; Von Waldheim, of Vienna; and Remington, of Philadelphia, was selected at a meeting in Chicago to constitute an International Pharmacopœia Committee. This committee having reported to the International Congress, recommending the dealing altogether with the matter of patent remedies, or remedies used by physicians, which are not named in the pharmacopœias of the various countries, the present action is taken in order to formulate a plan of common action by a future congress.

"What to Do with Deteriorated Drugs."

Under the above heading a communication appears in an American contemporary giving advice as to what should be done with "any roots, barks, berries, etc., either whole or in powder, which have begun to deteriorate."

The writer advises that these goods be ground up with "about 2% of so called carbonate of iron and plenty of aromatics" to be used in a batch of condition powder.

This advice, although perhaps, appearing very reasonable from an economic point of view, is certainly not one that can be justified from the standpoint of a responsible druggist.

We maintain that deteriorated drugs should never in any instance be employed, not even in administering them to the lower animals. While it may seem hard to have to lose goods which are not up to the standard, still it is better to do this than to supply the public an article in which you yourself have not confidence.

What we would suggest is, in the first place, to avoid having such goods by making your purchases smaller, then examining and testing minutely everything that comes into your store, thus preventing in every way possible the occurrence of any such loss or deterioration.

The druggist has many responsibilities to himself and his customers, which he should not lose sight of, and the purity of the articles he sells is one of the most important of them.

Resolution of Regret.

In the death of the Honorable Dr. Marsil, M.L.C., the druggists of Quebec lose an ardent advocate and one who was perhaps their leading champion in the council. At a meeting of the druggists of Montreal held in the College of Pharmacy under the presidency of Mr. Joseph Contant, a resolution of regret at the death of the late Hon. Dr. Marsil was unanimously adopted upon the motion of Mr. H. R. Gray, seconded by Mr. S. L. Lachance. The resolution was suitably addressed to Mrs. Marsil.

An ounce of well-directed energy is more powerful than a pound of promiscuous effort.

An ounce of originality will go further as a business lubricant than a pound of imitation.