

Canadian Druggist

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Our New Year.

The readers of the CANADIAN DRUGGIST have entered upon another year of the nineteenth century, taking with them the remembrances of the past, striving to gain what is best and most valuable in the present, and trusting to a prosperous future. We might enlarge on many thoughts which come to our mind as to what the year 1895 has done for pharmacy in Canada, and as to what its prospects are for 1896; but our readers need not be told of their past experiences, whether they have been of prosperity and progress or of adversity and misfortune. The past, whatever it has been, should only be to us a remembrance of how difficulties are to be avoided, successes to be pushed forward, and a stimulus to renewed efforts for the future. The pessimist may look at the darkest side of everything; the man who cries "dull times" continually is bound to have them; and the grumbler, who sees no good in anything or anybody outside of himself, will always find something to find fault with; but the pharmacist who is a *man* in the true sense of the word will always find that steady, persevering effort, honest and diligent application, and a spirit of gratitude for what he has, and a determination to make the best of everything—that the world appreciates such a man, and his efforts will be rewarded. We wish our readers prosperity, peace, and plenty. We give them our hand as brother pharmacists in the battle of business. Shoulder to shoulder we will do our best to stem the tide of evils which beset the trade, and in the year 1896, as in the past, the readers of the CANADIAN DRUGGIST throughout the length and breadth of Canada may depend on us as an ally in all matters for the protection and improvement of their interests.

The late Professor Kluysskens says that figs were used for the first time as cataplasms by Hezekiah, 260 years before the time of Hippocrates.

The Condition of the Patent Medicine Trade.

WHAT IT HAS BEEN

The patent medicine trade has been as full of variety as any line of business could well be. The past twenty five years has noted the rise and fall of dozens of prominent preparations, and druggists who desire to know what they were will refresh their memories by going through their patent medicine lockers, and noting the stock they have on hand of Hop Bitters, Warner's remedies, Ayer's preparations, Pinkham's compound, purifier and wash, Bristol's, Johnston's, and other sarsaparillas, Cuticura preparations, St. Jacob's Oil and associates, Shoshonee's remedy, Vegetine, Sutherland's Rheumatine, Hamlin's Wizard Oil, Kidney Wort, Hydrohume, and a host of others of minor degree. Hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of these remedies have in the past been consumed by Canadians, yet their light has gone or is going out, and the receipts have gone to make a living for those who furnish paper, ink, composition, and press work, for advertising purposes. The patent medicine advertiser has made fortunes and lost them, and to day comparatively few can be pointed to who have what they commenced with, yet all have contributed more or less to make the retail drug business profitable.

WHAT IT IS.

It would be useless folly to assert to-day that the patent medicine trade is satisfactory to either the maker or vendor. While prices remained normal, and the druggist was the sole purveyor, there was a reasonable degree of prestige attached to the article sold, but since the grocer, the general merchant, and the department dealer have become privileged to commend them for public use at reduced prices, that condition of things is at an end, or nearly so, and the trade in them has reached a point below which zero comes. It is doubtless true, as has been