

one year to devote himself to an extended course of study at the Columbia College, giving special attention to botany and chemistry, with the fixed purpose of thoroughly preparing himself to make pharmacognosy his life work. In 1892 he was elected Reporter on Progress of Pharmacy of the American Pharmaceutical Association, which position he still occupies with distinguished ability and unselfish zeal. Desiring to pursue further studies in German universities before he enters upon his duties in the School of Pharmacy of Northwestern University, he has been granted leave of absence for one year for that purpose.

Mr. Nagelvoort was born at Amsterdam, Holland. He enjoyed the great advantages of receiving his early education at the hands of private tutors. Then he became apprenticed to an apothecary who was his father's neighbor and friend, and has continued, since that time, faithful to his love of the sciences upon which true pharmacy rests. At seventeen he entered the University of Amsterdam as a student of pharmacy, and graduated upon the completion of the three years' course there prescribed. The compensation received by dispensing pharmacists in Holland being rather meagre, Mr. Nagelvoort accepted an appointment to the position of military apothecary, and in that capacity served for many years in Europe and in India. While in the service of his government he enjoyed unusual facilities for scientific work and study. Then he came to this country, and for some years was a pioneer farmer in Nebraska. In the meantime, he continued sedulously to cultivate his scientific studies. In 1887 he offered his services to Messrs. Parke, Davis & Co. as an analytical chemist, and has been busily engaged since that time in the qualitative and quantitative examination of drugs, chemicals, and pharmaceutical preparations. In an analytical laboratory where every convenience and the most approved apparatus was to be had for the asking, and with a reference library such as few pharmaceutical schools in this country possess, Mr. Nagelvoort was daily accumulating a practical experience in pharmaceutical analysis, assaying, and testing, such as could hardly be acquired elsewhere, until he must now be recognized as one of the foremost experts in this special field of work. His contributions to current chemical and pharmaceutical literature are numerous and valuable. Of his translation of Flückiger's well-known work on the "Reactions" of organic compounds, Prof. Flückiger himself said: "I fully acknowledge how zealously and intelligently you not only translated, but, in many respects, improved the 'Reactions.'"

Prof. Nagelvoort enters upon his duties at the School of Pharmacy of Northwestern University about the first day of next August, to complete the details of the equipment of the special laboratory assigned to his charge, so as to be thoroughly ready to begin the courses of in-

struction on the first of October. His entire time will be devoted to the special chemical and pharmaceutical laboratory courses included in the second year's curriculum for the degree of Pharmaceutical Chemist, the most important part of which is pharmaceutical assaying and related analytical work, such as the pharmacists and the sanitary public analysts of the future must be prepared to perform.

The School of Pharmacy of Northwestern University, Chicago, has heretofore required "practical experience in drug stores" for the degree of graduate in pharmacy. It has now abolished this requirement on the ground that it cannot assume the responsibility for any training its students may have received outside of the school.

Pharmaceutical Examinations.

PRELIMINARY.

The preliminary Board of Examiners of the Pharmaceutical Association of the Province of Quebec held their quarterly examinations in Montreal and Quebec on Thursday, April 5th, for the examination of candidates desiring to enter the study of pharmacy. Thirty-one candidates presented themselves in Montreal and three in Quebec. Of these the following passed, and are entitled to be registered as certified apprentices, their names being given in the order of merit, namely: James A. Gillespie, Joseph Victor Murray, Hercule Guerin, Henry St. George, F. W. Kneen, S. A. Lamoureux, Joseph Pigeon, W. F. Shea, Geo. A. Ricard, Paul Bergeron, A. J. Aubry, A. Bachand, Romeo Cassgrain, and A. Lauzon. Mr. A. Christie passed upon all subjects but geography. The subjects examined upon were, English, French, Latin, arithmetic, geography, and history. The examiners were Professors A. Leblond de Brumath and Isaac Gammell, Mr. A. LaRue, of Quebec, acting as supervisor for that city and district. The next examination will be held July 4th. Candidates must send in their applications at least ten days before the date of examination.

SEMI-ANNUAL.

The semi-annual examinations of the Pharmaceutical Association of the Province of Quebec commenced on Tuesday, April 16th, and closed Friday night, April 19th. Twenty-three candidates for the major and thirty-two for the minor examination enrolled their names for these examinations. Of these three defaulted, and of the remaining candidates the following passed, and are entitled to be registered as licentiates of pharmacy and certified clerks respectively, and are here named in order of merit, namely: As licentiates of pharmacy—D. J. McManamy, A. M. McMillan, James H. Goulden, Phillipe Lupien, W. J. Furse, J. H. E. Brodeur, Frank L. Woolley. As certified clerks—James A. Gillespie, S. Gilbert, Herbert H. Lyons, A. Goyette, Medard Langlois, Joseph Routhier, and

J. A. A. Drouin. The examinations were both written and oral, the candidates being examined on materia medica, toxicology, chemistry, pharmacy, botany, practical dispensing, reading of prescriptions, and weights and measures. The examiners were Messrs. S. Lachance, A. E. DuBerger, R. W. Williams, W. H. Chapman, and J. R. Parkin. The next examination will take place in the city of Quebec about the middle of October.

A Polyglot Apothecary.

On the sign board of a drug store on Salem street, Boston, and on the back of the prescription blanks furnished by the proprietor, he states that no less than twelve languages are spoken in his shop, namely, English, French, German, Italian, Greek, Turkish, Spanish, Russian, Hebrew, Hungarian, Roumanian, and Portuguese. That an apothecary should find it necessary to advertise his ability to speak English in Boston is a curious indication of the way in which a foreign population has monopolized certain districts in the city. The changes which have taken place in the character of the population of the North End are shown by the fact that this drug store is within a stone's throw of the Cushman School, which stands on the site of Charlotte Cushman's birthplace, on Parmenter street. . . . Mr. Kronberger, the proprietor, is, we believe, a Turk (from Turkey), and a handsome Tufts soda fountain graces his store, and soda as well as prescription can be furnished in any language.—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*.

The Action of Diastase on Cold Starch Paste.

By H. T. BROWN, F.R.S., and G. H. MORRIS, Ph.D.

In a paper by Brown and Heron (*Trans. Chem. Soc.*, 1879, p. 627) it is mentioned that during the early stages of the action of diastase upon starch paste in the cold, the optical activity is lower than it should be on the assumption that only maltose and dextrin are present. After standing some hours, or on boiling, this discrepancy disappears, and the optical cupric-reducing powers show the same relationship that they do in conversions made at higher temperatures. An observation made by O'Sullivan and Thompson in an other direction suggested an explanation of these abnormal results, and in the present paper the authors show that the lower angle of rotation observed during the earlier stages is due to the maltose being liberated in the state of "half rotation," a condition which freshly-prepared solutions of pure maltose always show. When freshly dissolved the optical power of maltose bears the relation to that of a boiled or old solution of about 133° to 150°, and the authors show that this relationship holds good in the case of freshly-prepared products from cold starch paste. *Proc. Chem. Soc.—Pharmaceutical Journal*.