

Editorial Notes.

The annual meeting of the British Pharmaceutical Conference will be held August 9th next and following days at Glasgow. The honorary secretary is Mr. J. Anderson Russell.

The number of whole-sale drug houses in the United States is gradually being reduced. The last firm to retire is the old-established one of Tarrant & Co., Greenwich street, New York. They will in future concentrate their business to the sale of proprietary articles.

The United Alkali Co., Liverpool, England, have purchased one hundred acres of land on the Detroit River, west of the River Rouge. The price paid is said to have been \$150,000, and, further, that the company will construct a plant which will give employment to at least one thousand men.

"How the iodine ring is held together," in our English letter this month, is interesting reading, as is also the whole letter. Our correspondent is one of the best informed men in England as to what is happening in drug and chemical circles, and each month's contribution is timely and up-to-date.

At a meeting of the Dental Association of the Province of Quebec, held in Montreal, it was resolved to appeal to the Governor-General to disallow the legislation affecting the profession recently enacted by the Provincial Parliament, by which any dentist can employ a graduate of any college, on the condition that the dentist so employing him is present when any operation or work is in progress.

At Moneymore, in the County Kerry, Ireland, a woman named Mary Brennan, for selling ether on October 30th last, was fined £5 and costs. The prosecution was brought under the 30th section of the Pharmacy Act, but the reason why the case was pressed was that ether drinking is becoming such a vice in Kerry that clergymen of all denominations are loud in their denunciations of this pernicious habit.

The firm of Parke, Davis & Co., Detroit, Mich., has been reorganized. David Whitney, jr., Henry Stephens and Theodore D. Buhl, of Detroit, who held blocks of Geo. S. Davis' stock, have purchased the stock of a number of small stockholders,

and with H. C. Parke, now hold a controlling interest. Mr. Davis remains with the company as nominal advisory manager for two years. H. C. Parke, the president, remains at the head of the concern.

The Postmaster-General says that, in view of the somewhat widely prevalent misunderstanding as to the printing and illustration which may be placed on the address side of private post cards, postmasters are informed that in cases in which a card not conforming to the regulations in this respect has to be taxed as a short paid letter he is authorized until further ordered to collect the simple deficiency at letter rate of two cents instead of double the deficiency. Nothing whatever in the way of an advertisement, whether in words or by means of designs, may appear on the address side, nor may the description of the business be expanded beyond what might be a service address on a letter.

The meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science to be held in Toronto this year promises to be of unusual interest, and the committee have been at work for some time preparing for the event. The meeting will begin Aug. 18th and will last about a week. There will be daily sessions of most sections, and in details the usual programme will be followed as when meeting in English cities. The buildings of Toronto University are to be used for the purposes of the meeting. Among those who have announced that, if circumstances permit, they intend to be present are: Lord Lister, the retiring president of the association; Lord Kelvin, Sir Henry Roscoe, LL.D.; Prof. A. G. Vernon Harcourt, Prof. G. Carey Foster, F.R.S.; Prof. Burdon-Sanderson, LL.D., F.R.S.; Prof. W. F. R. Weldon, F.R.S.; Prof. Milne, F.R.S.; Major L. Darwin, F.R.G.S.; J. Scott Keltie, F.R.G.S.; Prof. Lloyd Morgan, Prof. George Darwin, F.R.S.; Prof. T. G. Bonney, F.R.S.; Prof. Boyd Dawkins, F.R.S., F.R.A., F.G.S.; Francis Galton, D.C.L.; Prof. Henry See-ewick. The council of the association has already chosen presidents for several of the sections, and the names announced so far are: Geology, Dr. G. M. Dawson, of Ottawa; chemistry, Prof. William Ramsay; zoology, Prof. Louis C. Miall; anthropology, Sir Wm. Turner; physiology, Prof. Michael Foster; botany, Prof. Marshall Ward.

The Physician and the Dispenser.

In an article in the January issue of *The Canadian Practitioner* (which, by the way, is now under new management, although the editors remain as heretofore) attention is drawn to the evils existing both in the departmental stores, where prescriptions are dispensed, and also in the retail drug store, where profit is more of a consideration than a conscientious regard for the life and well-being of patients (and unfortunately there are a few such, although, we believe, small in number).

The relations existing between doctor and druggist have been so laboriously discussed and threshed out that it would be superfluous for us to enlarge on them here. Yet it is a question which must ever commend itself to the better judgment of both parties whether it would not be wise to work as harmoniously as possible together, laying aside the petty issues which arise, and endeavoring by a more thorough understanding of the circumstances and surroundings to cultivate a feeling of dependence on each other, which would ultimately lead to a state of more perfect reliance and confidence.

The suggestion contained in the latter portion of the article which we reproduce in full is one that has commended itself to us for some time past, and we believe the "experiment" worthy of a trial. The following is the article:

"It may be owing to recent hard times or a public demand that the sale of patent nostrums and cure-alls have received such attention from the druggists. Departmental stores have established complete drug departments, cut prices, and otherwise interfered with the drug trade to such an extent that the existence of the legitimate druggists is in danger. No business can be carried on without a profit. Large departmental stores can afford to accept a smaller percentage of profit than stores dealing in any one single line. Competition is usually healthful, but when it comes down to cutting prices in dispensing prescriptions a very serious condition of affairs exists.

There are honest and dishonest druggists, and the dishonest ones will cut to meet the cut from the departmental stores, and quite likely the patient and doctor will both suffer. The cut by the dishonest druggist will be in the shape of substitution or using inferior drugs. The conscientious druggist will simply say that a prescription cannot honestly be filled for the price and decline to dispense it. The departmental store will fill it, charge low to secure custom for the general store, and thus cut the legitimate druggist—an absolute necessity—out of his busi-