

# CANADIAN DRUGGIST.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE GENERAL DRUG TRADE AND TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF PHARMACY.

Vol. 2.

STRATHROY, MAY, 1890.

No. 5.

## CANADIAN DRUGGIST,

STRATHROY, ONT.

WILLIAM J. DYAS, - Editor and Publisher.

SUBSCRIPTION, \$1 PER YEAR, IN ADVANCE.  
Advertising Rates on Application.

The Canadian Druggist is issued on the 15th of each month, and all matter for insertion should reach us by the 5th of the month.  
All cheques or drafts to be made payable to the editor. New advertisements or changes to be addressed

CANADIAN DRUGGIST,

STRATHROY, ONTARIO.

### Registration of Poisons.

Under the above caption a number of articles have appeared in several drug journals, intended as cautions or warnings to druggists in reference more particularly to the sale of proprietary articles containing poisons such as are enumerated in schedule A of the Ontario Pharmacy Act, and holding that under the provisions of this Act, which differs but little from that of the Pharmaceutical Acts of other Provinces, that the druggist selling such articles without registration of such sale is subject to the penalties of said act. This may appear very well in theory, but looking at the matter from a druggist's standpoint, we think that the absurdity of such an idea can be easily shown. We claim, and it is a fact almost universally admitted that with druggists as a rule caution, sometimes even carried to an excess, is displayed in the sale of dangerous drugs, and the public generally feel themselves safe in leaving these matters in their hands, but when a customer asks for a bottle of syrup of hypophosphites, which the druggist knows to contain strychnine, or a soothing syrup containing opium, or a chlorodyne containing hydrocyanic acid, or a cough mixture containing tartar emetic, or a liniment containing oil of cedar, should it be incumbent on him to announce to his customer that one contains strychnine, an aer oil of cedar, and so on, and that the sale must be registered and the bottle labeled "Poison" before it is sent out. We think not, although this is the view some of the writers of the articles mentioned seem to take of it. The *Chemist and Druggist* says that according to their interpretation of the English Act, druggists are liable if they do not register, and the organ of the Ontario College of Pharmacy endorses this view as being also applicable in Canada. Let us glance at the section of the Ontario Act which applies, viz., sec. 26: "No person shall sell any poison named in the first

part of schedule A either by wholesale or retail, unless the box, bottle, vessel, wrapper or cover in which the poison is contained is distinctly labeled with the name of the article and the word "Poison," and if sold by retail then also with the name and address of the proprietor of the establishment in which such poison is sold."

In the schedule mentioned we have "acid hydrocyanic, aconite and compounds thereof, morphia and its salts and solutions, strychnina."

Our own definition of the meaning of the act is that it be taken literally, that it means what it says and no more, that when it speaks of "arsenic and compounds thereof," it means the official preparations such as are recognized by the British Pharmacopoeia, or are sold as preparations of arsenic, and when it says Carbolic Acid it does not mean that because some oil or lotion contains this acid it should be treated as the acid itself, for this latter is the evident reasoning of some of the articles.

The Druggist certainly is sufficiently hedged around now with legislation and enactments without trying to beset him still more by imaginary construction of the laws. What with the Pharmacy Act, the Liquor License Act, the Medical Act, which prevents him recommending anything to his customers whereby he may make a profit, he is certainly pretty well looked after and if any stricter enactments are made, they might as well legislate him out of existence. If the law can be so construed as to necessitate the registering of all sales of proprietary medicines and other articles containing poisons, the sooner it is amended the better, as we all know from past experience that there are too many unscrupulous people ready to take any advantage of apparent technicalities to reap a little pecuniary advantage to themselves.

### Students Suspended.

The announcement that five students of the Ontario College of Pharmacy had been suspended for an attempt to obtain possession of examination papers, has caused a deep feeling of regret, not unmixed with sympathy for at least some of the transgressors. From the evidence it appears that one of the students endeavored to enlist Detective M. Howie in the task of securing these papers by some means from the examiners, and offered a liberal sum of money in case he was successful. The letter was answered and arrangements entered into after a deposit of \$25 was made that the papers should be forthcoming. Into this arrangement the other four students also entered, and when the detective reported the case to the faculty the five were recognized and having been brought before the board of examiners, were

summarily dealt with. The decision of the board was undoubtedly a just one and we trust the lesson will not be lost on any student who in the future would seek their diploma through fraud or unfair means. It should be the aim of the Pharmaceutical student to not only endeavor to raise the educational standard to its proper position, but in doing so to remember that one false step, one deviation from what is honorable, upright and true, may lead and frequently does lead into still more dishonorable and dishonest practices, which may mar his mercantile as well as his social career.

### Courteousness.

Mr. E. Waldo Cutler in his address at the commencement exercises of the Mass. College of Pharmacy, presented many suggestions for securing success in business, not the least of which were the little every day courtesies. There is probably nothing that will bring in and retain customers, both young and old, as these same courtesies.

Placing a chair for an aged person, handing a book or magazine to a lady while she waits for a prescription, giving a card or other token to a child, or the many little acts of kindness that any one can do daily. True they are trifles in themselves, but trifles make up the sum of life. Genuine politeness has been aptly termed "acts of the heart and not the studied acts of the lips or motions of the body."

Perhaps the Holy Writ gives the best definition in the text, "Be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted."

There are doubtless many temptations in the hurry and turmoil of business and the pharmacist, we claim, has his full share and more—to give curt answers to customers, who sometimes will not be contented apparently with aught else, and who seem to be created like mosquitos, simply to vex and annoy humanity, but as they cannot be treated like their prototypes, by far the best way is to treat them kindly, and smilingly pass over their vagaries. One of the wisest things King Solomon ever uttered was the statement that a "hurry heart doeth good like a medicine" and physicians cannot complain of this method of counter prescribing.

### Window Dressing.

Window dressing is really a fine art in the way of tempting the purchaser, attracting the passerby, impressing the locality of the store upon the memory, or introducing some new and desirable specialty to the public. It is not enough for the pharmacist to have a good reputation, a neat store, well appointed arrange-