

Letter From Our New York Correspondent.

New York, July 8th, 1890.

The warm spell of weather has rapidly driven those who make summer flights a part of their life to seek some other place than our city, nominally in search of a cooler place, but really for rest, recreation or fortune hunting. Our city is about as cool as most places in this part of the States, though it must be granted that outside of its precincts are to be found cooler nights and more refreshing sleep when the mercury is in its higher moods.

Drug trade in our city has undergone some changes during the past few years, and its pursuit is beset with difficulties, hindrances and annoyances. The druggists are (some of them) looking around their stores and over their prescription books in search of those aggravated profits that the *World* and that *Toronto* paper claim are their daily experience. I have found none that can see just where any such profits come in, but I do find that between the cut prices at retail by dry goods and grocery men, as well as others who are taking away slices of their former trade, that customers are not on the increase in numbers, amount of traffic, or satisfactory returns. Where to curtail expenses, increase the volume of trade, or secure a little better "net result," is what would be a godsend if any person will solve the problem.

Between this state of affairs, the attack of the ruffian, as was the case recently, when one of our elderly druggists was brutally injured in his own store, and the anxiety of the old time druggists about the adoption of the metric system in the next edition of U. S. Pharmacopœia, the druggist who can afford to get away for a brief period is a most fortunate man.

Perhaps in his absence he may gain a few points of information as to why it is that when his customers return in the early fall they are unable then to settle their accounts which they left unpaid when they went out of town.

The hot weather of June has made early vacations for families the rule this year, and the residence portions of our city look deserted. Correspondingly the up-town druggists are finding less necessity for hard work, in fact are complaining of little to do. The wholesale druggists are none of them reaching the volume of business or of profits that were either hoped for or expected, and the first half of the year is a mild disappointment.

The decease of Edward A. Fraser, who recently retired from the wholesale drug trade, where for many years past he was known as Fraser & Lee, was very sudden. While in his office he had an attack of paralysis and it proved fatal in a few minutes.

Perhaps better known as a firm to our Canadian friends was that of E. Fongera & Co., and here again we have to record another death, that of William R. Woodward, the senior member of that firm.

His death may be remotely attributed to his exposure to the effect of the severe storm which has been known to us New Yorkers as "the blizzard," which occurred in March, '88. In his effort to return home that day the fatigue and exposure caused a temporary illness, but it left that which was incurable behind, and slowly but steadily he failed in strength until released by death July 5th.

The colleges of pharmacy, now so numerous in the United States and more plentiful in Canada than they were, are temporarily resting from educational work, but they are reaching out for more students for the next session. While attendance as a total has greatly increased to what it was 10 or 20 years ago, this year of grace, 1890, should see many more seeking education in this line. The better equipped a young man is for his calling in life, the better compensation he can earn as a clerk and more certainty of success in his own business career, but with science he wants sound practical experience coincident with his theory. So we look for a generous increase in all our colleges during the coming sessions.

New remedies sometimes puzzle both physicians and dispensers, and when prescriptions are written for new and potent alkaloids, whose potent dose and full remedial action is not fully understood, there may be a question how far the dispenser is justified in acting. A recent case of this kind occurred in Brooklyn where hyoseyine was dispensed, and it is claimed that hyoseyamine was directed. The writer has seen some very reckless prescriptions written for some of these nerve alkaloids, and the only wonder is that more lives have not paid the penalty for such prescribing. FIDELIAS.

Misleading Report.

In the June number of the *Pharmaceutical Era* appears a report of the February meeting of the Council of the Ontario College of Pharmacy, which is calculated to create an erroneous impression on any who have not read the correct report of the proceedings. The Council, by the decisive vote of 10 to 2, declared its approval of the president's action in the premises, while the *Era* report gives greater prominence to the remarks of the two members opposed to his action. We append the report mentioned as also the official report from the *Can. Pharmaceutical Journal*:

ONTARIO COLLEGE OF PHARMACY.—The meeting of the council of this institution was held at Toronto on Feb. 4th, and three following days. After routine proceedings a lengthy discussion took place on the unauthorized action of the President in seeking the recognition of the college diploma by United States colleges. He had forwarded letters to a number of pharmacy boards and replies assenting were received from Georgia, Alabama, Florida, District of Columbia, Dakota, Wisconsin, Missouri, Connecticut and New Jersey.

Mr. Jeffrey enquired as to the object the President had in corresponding with the various boards, and whether it would not be the honorable inference that the recognition should be mutual.

Mr. Sanders insisted upon the production of the President's letter, so that the terms of recognition might be learned, but that document was not forthcoming. Mr. Sanders contended that the reputation of the Ontario College was jeopardized by the diploma being thus hawked around. He alluded to the years of toil by which the college had reached its present high standing, and regretted that it should now be placed in the humiliating position of a supplicant at the feet of inferior and unknown institutions. He offered a resolution covering this ground, and strongly censured the President for his unauthorized and officious action.

Mr. D'Avignon seconded the resolution, and thought that the college would be decidedly injured by Mr. Clark's action, and that it was unauthorized by the council, and would have the effect of lowering the high standing which had after long years been attained. The students had never had any difficulty in passing the U. S. examinations, and he did not think that the students desired any change.

A motion in amendment, approving of the President's action, was made by Mr. Waters, seconded by Mr. Slaven.—*Era*.

The following is the official report:

In response to a communication from the Virginia Board of Pharmacy, it was

Moved by J. W. Slaven, seconded by H. Waters, that the President be empowered to attend as a delegate the meeting of delegates of the State Board of Pharmacy in the United States, to be held at Old Point, Va., September, 1890. Carried.

Moved by W. B. Sanders, seconded by J. E. D'Avignon, that the communications now read from the various Boards of Pharmacy, by the President, be not adopted by this Board, as in his official capacity as President of this Board, we feel that the hard-earned reputation of the Ontario College of Pharmacy has been hawked over the various states of the United States seeking the co-operation of foreign Boards of Pharmacy.

Yeas—D'Avignon, Sanders—2. Nays—Hall, Jeffrey, Lawrence, McKee, McGregor, Hobart, McKenzie, Petrie, Slaven, Watters—10.

Moved in amendment by H. Watters, seconded by J. W. Slaven, that this Council approve of the efforts made by the President in obtaining from various state boards recognition of the diplomas of this college, and that the thanks of this council be tendered to him for his zeal in promoting the interest of our college in directing attention to the excellence of our Pharmacy Act.

The amendment was put to the meeting and carried.—*Can. Phar. Jour.*

He who sows courtesy reaps friendship,
and he who plants kindness gathers love.