

his department. He controls the supply of drugs by inviting tenders or discriminating between those submitted. He supervises no small amount of manufacturing which is done in his laboratory and checks all poisons. Many of these laboratories are fitted up with steam pans and large tincture presses, etc., whilst the preparation of peptonized foods is part of the duties of the department. It is notorious that hospitals are extravagant with drugs and new preparations. Hospitals, indeed, in this country are essentially the proving ground for new drugs, since vivisection or experiments upon animals (not human) is so restricted. A hospital drug account is interesting and amounts often in value to \$25,000 per annum. It is remarkable to notice how the consumption of opium and quinine has been affected by the new remedies such as sulphonal, antipyrin, acetanilids, etc. The rise and fall of many members of the modern materia medica are faithfully chronicled in these accounts. Thus, strophanthus and terebene reached their high-water mark at one of the largest hospitals two years ago, and exhibit now a rapidly diminishing record. Curiously enough the evil-smelling iodoform still holds its own in spite of the numerous substitutes that have been recommended, and in the face of repeated statements that it is not an antiseptic at all.

The illness of Sir Andrew Clark, one of our leading physicians, is generally deplored. He is a particularly genial and courteous doctor, who has often shown his sympathy with chemists and eloquently applauded their efforts to advance in scientific attainment. In his consulting-room at Cavendish Square is a large silver vase, under a glass case, with an inscription indicating that it was the gift of a grateful patient who was snatched from the jaws of death by the distinguished physician. His prescriptions are delightfully different to those of most doctors, being written with evident care and in a delicate but plain hand-writing. He always employs a purple ink, so that, apart from the characteristic penmanship and signature, his prescriptions are distinguished at a glance. As an orator there are few men in the profession who equal him, and he is at his best in post-prandial speech-making.*

The progress that is gradually being made in this country in devising methods to circumvent "cutting" in prices, is clearly marked by the reports which have been made lately in the *British and Colonial Druggist*. As the largest city in the world, London stands at the head of distributors of merchandise and the opinions of its leading patent-medicine houses must carry considerable weight. A few years ago any attempt to pin down the "scalper" would have been regarded as chimerical and wholesalers would have denounced all plans that were originated for the purpose. To day we see a growing tendency

to regard the idea of protecting prices as not only proper but feasible. Much of this conversion to a wholesome opinion on the subject is due to the intrepid manner in which Messrs. Elliman, of embrocation fame, have successfully carried out from the beginning their plan to meet this grievance. In spite of the number of large stores and other distributing agencies, Messrs. Elliman have managed to bind both wholesalers and retailers not to sell their goods below stipulated prices. The result has certainly been satisfactory, and, in spite of an occasional breaking-faith, the plan works harmoniously and with little friction. Before this plan was devised the wholesale trade repeatedly stated that nothing of the kind could ever succeed, and did their level best to pour cold water on the scheme, because it entailed extra clerical labor. But its success has clearly demonstrated the capacity of a manufacturer, who is determined about the matter, to protect the prices at which his goods shall be sold. All the nonsense, which even now is repeated by some out-of-date people, about free trade in a free country, sounds like bathos when we find a scheme carried out which hurts none and protects many. What is required now is the amalgamation of the firms and manufacturers who approve of this policy so that the best scheme may be adopted, instead of several plans being at work at the same time. The persuasion method is dead, and no amount of moral suasion will affect a "scalper." Some combined effort on the part of druggists to deal only with goods to which a living profit is attached would bring many a halting manufacturer to his senses. It is doubtless of very little use to murmur against what we regard as unjust trading, if we do not in some measure attempt to work with those who assist, and oppose those who retard a plan for mutual advantage. "Muslin druggists" have doubtless come to stay, but they are surely welcome to the portion without profit, if we can cut away the profitable ground from under their feet in return.

LONDON, Eng., Oct. 26th, 1893.

A Strong Endorsation.

The citizens of London, Ont., were startled last week on hearing of the sudden death of one of their prominent business men—Mr. T. A. Mara. It was not generally known that deceased had not been enjoying very good health for several weeks past, but he had just returned from a visit to Florida, where he had been trying to recuperate, in no better if not a worse condition than when he left. On Sunday last he decided to take a dose of rum and quinine, which mixture was prepared by a graduate of the College in Strong's drug store. During the night it became evident that the unfortunate man was growing gradually worse, and the family physician was immediately called in. On Monday morning he rallied for a short time, spoke to the physician in attendance, and then relapsed into uncon-

sciousness in which condition he remained until Tuesday morning about 4 o'clock, when he quietly passed away. Several of the leading physicians were in consultation the night before his death, and it was held by some that he had the symptoms of poisoning from morphine, while others maintained that he died from uremia, or poisoning from the kidneys. Mr. Strong naturally feels the position very keenly, as the medicine was procured in his store, but the kind expressions of regret and unabated confidence signed by forty-two of the physicians of the city will we hope, in a certain measure at least, satisfy him of their continued confidence.

The following physicians signed the document referred to:—

T. V. Hutchinson,	J. B. Campbell,
J. S. Niven,	H. A. McCallum,
Cl. T. Campbell,	H. Going,
W. H. Moorhouse,	A. R. Pingel,
E. T. Eede,	Geo. Hodge,
H. Arnott,	A. MacLaren,
W. J. Logie,	J. Wishart,
J. A. Macgregor,	Alex. Graham,
W. J. Waugh,	E. Macklin,
G. H. Wilson,	J. W. Fraser,
J. Piper,	Geo. Shoultz,
W. J. Mitchell,	Chas. S. Moore,
F. P. Drake,	O. Weld,
Hadley William,	Wm. Woodruff,
Alison Jamieson,	J. D. Wilson,
L. Bakus,	N. H. Beemer,
Geo. C. Davis, D.D.S.,	W. F. Roome,
W. P. Ross,	John R. Flock,
J. MacArthur,	J. H. Gardiner,
M. J. Hanavan,	B. F. Butler,
H. Meek,	G. P. Westland,
F. R. Eccles.	

The drug stores of Messrs. Pettingill & Dawson, at Regina, N. W. T., were totally destroyed by fire Nov. 14th.

Four of the most prominent druggists in Vancouver, B. C., have been fined \$85 for selling poisons without registering. The Pharmaceutical Society prosecuted. Westminster and Nanaimo were similarly served.

THE spontaneous ignition of lupulin is reported from Bremen. On one of the trans-Atlantic steamers just about ready to sail smoke was seen to issue from a box; upon opening, to see the cause, the material, lupulin, burst into flames. The lupulin had been sent from some part of Bavaria, and was to be shipped to this country. The unconsumed portion was found to be thoroughly caked, due to the presence of moisture and thus furnishes the cause of the ignition; a material, rich in oil; moisture; large quantity and considerable time of storage by which the heat generated by the slow oxidation of the oil, was so much increased that it reached the ignition temperature.—(*Städt. Apotheker Ztg.*)—*Am. H. Pharmacy.*

Determination of Extract of Wine is rapidly effected by evaporating 5 c.c. of wine in a tared watch-glass and drying it for thirty minutes in a water drying stove. Sweet wines must first be diluted to ten times their volume.

*This letter, as will be observed by the date, was written before the decease of Sir Andrew Clark.—[Ed.]