

ing the British Pharmacopœia. It is the only pharmacopœia which has been studied by the vast majority of physicians, and it is the only one practically known to the majority of druggists; consequently it has been tacitly accepted by the two professions as the standard for drugs, and if the matter were brought before a court we are inclined to lieve that any judge would accept these facts as making the B. P. the standard. But, as we said before, the law is explicit on the subject and leaves no room for doubt. It distinctly states that the B. P. and the U. S. P. are to be accepted as standards. But how many physicians when they order preparations mean the U. S. P., and how many druggists keep U. S. P. preparations generally on the shelves? What druggist would dispense *Tr. Aconiti U. S. P.*, *Tr. Opii U. S. P.*, or *Tr. Veratri Vividis U. S. P.* on a prescription? None, unless he was absolutely certain that the physician meant the U. S. P. and was aware of the difference in strength of the U. S. P., and B. P. preparations, so that in the vast majority of cases B. P. preparations are used and the British Pharmacopœia is practically the only standard. We admit that Mr. Gray is right in his statement regarding *Tr. Arnicæ*, which is generally made by the U. S. P. formula, but it is an exception; but as regards *Tr. Rhei*, in our experience the U. S. P. preparation is practically unknown. We will not discuss the question of the medicinal activity of saffron, upon which Mr. Gray expresses himself very emphatically, although the compilers of the British Pharmacopœia, who are supposed to know something of medicine, retained it and ordered it in the formula for tincture of rhubarb, so that evidently there is a conflict of opinion between Mr. Gray and some of the leading lights of the General Medical Council. But very few druggists sell the U. S. P. preparation, which contains no saffron, but the costly Spanish saffron is replaced by American saffron in some cases by those who wish to cheapen the product. Now, this action is decidedly wrong. It were much better to use the American formula than to patch up an imitation of the British article with so-called American saffron. Why is this American saffron used, if not for a questionable purpose? It is not saffron and bears no relation to it beyond yielding a color somewhat similar to that of true saffron, but as it is called saffron these druggists think by a peculiar process of reasoning that they are complying with the formula by

using it when they know full well that it is no more like what is ordered than chalk is like cheese. It is a fraud on physician and patient. Let them use the U. S. P. formula and be honest about it, and say so, but don't try to make a hodge-podge with safflower and call it *Tr. Rhei B. P.*

The discussion which took place after the reading of the address was rather tame, as only a few members took part in it, whereas we should have expected that there would have been such a desire to speak on the subject that the president would have had difficulty in deciding who had the floor; but probably the members were a little bashful, and as it was nearing lunch time they probably did not wish to have a lengthy discussion on the matter.

Mr. Contant and Mr. Morrison both spoke upon a subject of very great importance to the profession generally, namely the formation of a Dominion Association on the lines of the American Pharmaceutical Association. It certainly is time some move was made in the matter. Almost every State in the Union has its association for the improvement of its members professionally and socially, their annual meeting combining these two objects. Retail druggists then meet to discuss the problems of their everyday life from financial and professional points of view. They there become better acquainted with each other; socially and in every way these annual meetings tend to elevate the profession, and if the United States can support the national society, the A. P. A., and also the host of State societies surely the pharmacists of the Dominion have sufficient pride and ability, patriotic and professional, to organize and support a Dominion Pharmaceutical Association. Many Canadian druggists have joined the American Pharmaceutical Association or the British Pharmaceutical Conference, and some have joined both, and we have no doubt that these would be the most enthusiastic workers in the formation of the proposed Dominion Association. The Provincial Association now in existence undoubtedly have done a great deal to advance pharmacy in the way of laws, examinations, etc., and in that respect resemble the State Board of Pharmacy, whose work is entirely distinct from that of the State Association, which this new society would resemble, as it could not take an active part as such in obtaining legislation, leaving that to the present Provincial Associations; but the main object of the new society