

New Brunswick Notes.

Fredericton, N. B., is at the present moment minus one of its retail druggists, Geo. H. Davis. When last seen he was walking down the railroad track on Sunday afternoon during a heavy rain storm. He leaves behind him a few angry brokers, the wreck of a small retail business, and liabilities to the amount of \$21,500. About \$14,000 of this is repudiated paper upon which it is reported Mr. Davis did not raise more than \$1,000. In many cases he paid a shave of 65 per cent. and even higher rates. Much of this paper is forged and is now repudiated by the men whose signatures have been imitated. The brokers who charged such rates as 65 per cent. are not entitled to much sympathy. Mr. Davis was not a drinking man, but addicted to gambling, it is thought in stocks, which has led up to the above deplorable result.

In order that the drug clerks in St. John, N. B., may be better equipped for passing the registration examination of the Board of Pharmacy, two courses of lectures have been instituted on Elementary Chemistry and Materia Medica. The course will consist of twelve lectures on each subject. A. E. MacIntyre takes Chemistry and W. H. Mowatt, Materia Medica. Chemistry on Monday evening and Materia Medica, Thursday afternoon. The tickets for the courses have been placed at a very low figure, \$2.50 per course. It is intended next winter that these lectures shall be succeeded by a more advanced course on each subject.

In the examination held by N. B. Board of Pharmacy, Jan. 30. There were ten candidates for the preliminary examination, all of whom passed. Four for the final, of whom two passed, Messrs. Wm. Wilson, St. John West, and Geo. O. Spencer, Moncton. Examiners present were Messrs. R. E. Coupe, Dr. L. C. Allison, C. Walter Clark, W. H. Mowatt and M. V. Paddock.

"The Welcome of the Flowers" is the title of an article in the March number of *Harper's Magazine* on the cross fertilization of flowers by W. Hamilton Gibson. The subject is dealt with in a clear and graphic style and the high order of the illustrations both from a scientific and artistic standpoint render the article an extremely interesting one to the botanist. The subject, the co-operation of flowers and insects, is traced from its inception by Sprengel in 1787, diagrams being given of the floral problem which the earlier theorists were unable to master, down to the complete explanation of this by Darwin seventy years later in his "Origin of Species." The fertilization of many familiar wild species is illustrated and explained. One remarkable and perhaps not widely known fact relative to this subject is that of the first crop of American red clover raised in Australia. The crop was splendid in every respect, except that the flowers never came to maturity; there was no seed. The Amer-

ican humble bee had been left out in the transaction, and it was not until this gentleman and his family were naturalized that the crop seeded in the usual way. This seems to have been a true instance of the flower wasting its fragrance on the desert air, although the aphorism, in its general sense, seems now to be a false one. If the iconoclastic hand of the modern historian is proving many beautiful old legends, which we have hitherto taken as facts, to be myths only, the biologist and his co-worker, the botanist, on the other hand, are constructing from the living page of nature a history more wonderful in its many facts than the historic legends of old which are now dying out under the remorseless hand of scientific investigation.

British Columbia Notes.

The next meeting of the council of the B. C. Pharmaceutical Association will be held in Victoria, March 8th. The principal feature of importance coming up will be the amendments to the Pharmacy Act now before the Provincial House.

The semi-annual examinations for Licentiate of Pharmacy will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, April 4th and 5th. All applications must reach the registrar at least two weeks previous, accompanied by the fee (\$20.) All applications for registration on diploma, should be in at least 30 days before the Examining Board meets. Charles Nelson, registrar.

The business known as Reed's Pharmacy, Vancouver, was sold on Feb. 20th by the mortgagers (Langley & Co., of Victoria) to J. F. Jaek, also of Victoria, who is continuing the business under the name of "The Owl Drug Store."

It is also rumored that McDowell & Co. have sold their Westminster Avenue Branch, Vancouver, to their late manager, J. K. Sutherland.

T. M. Henderson, of Langley & Co., Victoria, has been taking in the Mid-Winter Fair at San Francisco, trying to recuperate his vitality, lost through a severe attack of grip.

J. Proctor, Nanaimo, has also been under the same complaint.

C. R. King, of Victoria, B. C. agent for the well known Evans & Sons, has lately lost his son, Clarence, who died, after a lingering illness, of consumption.

Lewis Hall, of Victoria, who was recently prosecuted by the Pharmaceutical Association for filling prescriptions without being registered as a licentiate, returned from Oregon with a diploma from a college of that state and has consequently been registered by the B. C. Association.

The Coast pharmacists have been pleased with visits from Dr. Sibree Clark, the pioneer druggist of Kamloops, B. C. The doctor was on the Coast in

connection with the Oddfellows' Grand Lodge meeting and his high and honorable position of Grand Master of Masonry.

The drug trade generally is suffering during the depression, as all other businesses are, the shadowy fortunes floating away with the wind.

Williams, druggist of Kaslo, is one of the losers in the recent fire in that city. Loss, \$2,000.

SCIEN.

Notes From England.

(From our own Correspondent)

LONDON, March 1st.

The Pharmaceutical Society has entered upon a crusade against the grocers ever since their success in the Chlorodyne case. The point which they have now raised will have to be settled by the Court of Appeal, viz.: what quantity of poison is necessary to bring a preparation within the meaning of the Act. In the latest case, that of selling Powell's Balsam of Aniseed, the Society seek to make it penal for any but qualified chemists selling it, although on their own showing the quantity of morphine is but one-tenth of a grain in a fluid ounce. There is, however, considerable difficulty in the matter as it is obvious that there are many drugs which would be considerably more dangerous, if 8 times the legitimate dose were taken, than with this particular preparation. On the other hand the principal for which the Society is contending is a most important one, that the quantity of poison is immaterial to the case provided it is in sufficient quantity to injure anybody under any circumstances. As the counsel for the defence pointed out, such a definition would require brandy and port wine to be scheduled as poisons, as in moderate quantities they would be prejudicial and possibly fatal to infants.

A striking point in these recent prosecutions has been the repeated evidence of the variation in the composition of some of these proprietary articles. According to Dr. Paul the proportion of active ingredient is sometimes 25 per cent. more in one sample than in another—a very serious increase that alone might lead to fatal results. It has been suggested to me that in the case of opium preparations this is due to the occasional inferiority of the opium employed and which the manufacturers are not capable of assaying. It is evident, therefore, if this explanation be accepted that the amount of morphine might vary considerably.

Professor Attfield's paper upon the Imperial British Pharmacopoeia will be read by Canadian pharmacists with peculiar pleasure. According to Dr. Attfield he was in no way alarmed at the recent production of the U. S. B., but the suggested Canadian Pharmacopoeia gave him much more concern. If my information is correct, the whole of the so-called Canadian demand for a pharmacopoeia of their own, was manufactured by a drug journal of