

gist; the protector of the interests of his local fellow-tradesmen, and the official exponent of pharmaceutical ethics. The financial harm that this attack is likely to accomplish will be ruinous to many. As one of our correspondents says: "If this craze goes on, it, of course, means the utter destruction of pharmacy throughout the country, and the list has been circulated throughout the adjoining towns, and so the evil work is going on."

There is, however, another aspect besides that of a purely financial kind, and this is well pointed out in a letter from one who has some regard for his position as well as his pocket. "There is supposed," says he, "to be a professional side to pharmacy (if one can find it), and it may be that a member of that fraternity can descend to conduct which is or ought to be considered unprofessional. Here is a man who has received the honor, at the hands of his fellow-druggists, of being their representative for the past eight years at the College of Pharmacy. His first act, after he ceases to represent them, is to thus degrade the profession. Is the issuing of such a circular to the general public, and adding the words 'The bottom not cracked yet,' professional? If it is, druggists had better go back to the days when they had no college, for it cannot be said that any progress has been made."

THE CHEMICAL SECTION OF THE INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

DRUGGISTS who visited the Industrial Exhibition, at Toronto, last month, must have been struck with the almost entire disappearance of any exhibits of a strictly chemical character. These formerly occupied some of the most prominent positions in the Main Building, and, to certain classes, were among the most interesting features. Such exhibits appear to be extinct, and in looking for the reason one had better ask the representatives of the Ontario College of Pharmacy. These gentlemen should be told that their positions as members of the association were not created for the purpose of entitling the holders to badges and free passes, but that the representatives should endeavor to persuade manufacturers to display their goods, and take an active personal interest in the exhibits.

In the earlier days of the exhibition we have known the College representatives to spend days and even weeks in such work, and in efforts to locate to the best advantage and add to the attractiveness of the collections shown. This kind of thing is not perhaps so congenial to some as is that of gazing, badge-bedizened, at a Punch and Judy show, or some second-rate acrobatic performance, but it is the sort of work the members of the Exhibition Associa-

tion are expected to perform. The neglect of duty now complained of has been evident for years, and it is questionable whether the representation of the College of Pharmacy would not be better dropped, and the interests of chemical manufacturers placed in the hands of those who really have some concern in the matter.

A NEEDED REFORM.

THE following letter, which appeared in the *Toronto Evening News*, has been handed to us by a city druggist, who prefixes it by saying: "This is sensible. Can you not give a helping hand? Push a good thing along: we have nothing":

Editor,—Allow me to place before your many readers a suggestion *re* the medical law. The Medical Act does not allow a druggist to prescribe anything for symptoms described unless it be some patent medicine. No matter how simple the case may be, nor how little a customer can afford to pay, he must go to a doctor in the regular expensive and ethical way. I noticed in the *News* last winter that Mr. Haycock, Patron leader, wished to reform the Medical Act. Allow me to suggest that he cannot commence a more popular work than by pruning it of this very arbitrary clause.

The druggist is compelled by law to have a knowledge of the action of medicines. Why, then, should he not be allowed to exercise that knowledge? A much better law obtains in Great Britain. There a customer is allowed to consult his druggist, and at a very nominal price secure some simple medicine which answers his purpose. Why should not such a law be in force here?

The *News* has always been the workingman's paper, and I do not know a better thing for the workingman than to be relieved of arbitrary laws.

ANDREW P. STIRRETT,
Chemist.

The Quantity of Hydrocyanic Acid found in Wild Cherry Bark, was made the subject of experiment by Messrs. Stevens and Jury, who read at the meeting of the Am. Phar. Assoc. a paper in which the results are recorded. The object of the inquiry was really that of ascertaining whether thin, green bark is really more valuable therapeutically than older and thicker bark. The authors conclude that their results appear to furnish to this query a negative answer, and on examining the figures given, the average of hydrocyanic acid in the thick bark is found to be higher than in that which is younger. Two methods of determination were employed. In the first the drug was macerated and distilled, the distillate being