

### Hopful.

In conversation with a gentleman, who has visited the drug trade in various parts of Canada during the past year, we learned that in his opinion prospects were daily becoming brighter, and that in nearly every instance where he had made inquiries the volume of business done was in excess of the preceding year. In Vancouver, North-west Territories, and Manitoba trade was unusually promising. The Maritime Provinces were in a healthy business condition. The provinces of Ontario and Quebec were suffering more than the others, but even they were making satisfactory business progress, and gradually emerging from the uncertain condition of trade induced by the advent of price cutting. Everywhere hope was again springing up, and aiding to restore that feeling of confidence without which trade never has been, and never will be, satisfactory.

With better times the demand for price cutting was diminishing, as the consumer was beginning again to feel that he could afford to live and let live, and to yield up his mite to restore hope and success in the business community.

### The Proposed Indian and Colonial Addendum.

We are in receipt, from the General Medical Council, of copies of the report of the Pharmacopœia Committee on the proposed Indian and Colonial Addendum to the British Pharmacopœia of 1898. This report has been approved and adopted by the Council, and has now been issued to the medical and pharmaceutical authorities in India and the colonies, with suggestions for their consideration. The articles named in the report are not numerous, and but few of them suggest themselves to the pharmacists of Canada as being a necessary addition to the B.P. as far as this country is concerned. We cannot compliment the Council on their manner of dealing with "the colonies," as regards Canada, at least, and when we mention that the Council of the Ontario College of Pharmacy, who are the administrative body governing three-fifths of the pharmacists of Canada, and with a college through whose portals all graduates *must* pass before becoming licentiates, to say that this body has not been officially recognized, either in the first instance by being asked for suggestions for

the proposed addendum, or at the present time not forwarding them a copy of the work, shows a lack of courtesy on the part of some one, whether it be of the Medical Council or the Colonial office of the British Government, or else an indifference, which makes matters still worse.

We have given, in the limited space at our command this month, the substance of the report, omitting merely those parts which relate to the "character" of the plant named and some of the notes stating by whom they are recommended.

We have submitted the report to several leading pharmacists in the various provinces for examination, but the late date of its arrival prevented our receiving criticisms from those at a distance. We give, however, the opinion of a recognized leader in pharmacy, Mr. Henry R. Gray, Montreal, in answer to our request for his views. He says of it:

"I do not believe we possess any indigenous drugs of such real and proven value as would entitle them to a place in the proposed addendum to the British Pharmacopœia. Those drugs, common to both Canada and the United States, which are of any real value, are already represented in the B.P., while others, which have little or no value (castoreum, for instance), have been wisely omitted. I, for one, believe there should be no doubtful therapeutic substances in a national pharmacopœia. It is possible there are some things in the B.P., 1898, which might be eliminated, even now, with advantage as, for instance, musk.

Of course, it is possible that we may have some wonderful drug in Canada which deserves canonization in the B.P.; all I can say is that I know not of it. As to modification of formulæ to suit the great variation between summer and winter in our climate, I see no reason why a skilled pharmacist cannot make such alterations, so long as the therapeutic activity of the drugs is not affected.

I really do not see what we in Canada can suggest to make the B.P. more applicable to our requirements than it is at present, unless to suggest that the United States and British pharmacopœias should be revised and condensed into one, so as to become the pharmacopœial standard for all the English-speaking peoples of the world."

The number of United States prescriptions daily dispensed in Canada is an argument, so far as Canadians are concerned, for having a united pharmacopœia for the English speaking people of the world published simultaneously in London and New York.

## Correspondence.

The editor does not hold himself responsible for the opinions of correspondents. Correspondents must in all cases send name and address, not necessarily for publication.

### Why Not Have own Pharmacopœia In Place of a Reference Work like the B. P. ?

To the Editor of CANADIAN DRUGGIST:

Toronto, January 12th, 1899.

DEAR SIR,—Is not the present time an opportune one for the renewal of an agitation in favor of a Canadian Pharmacopœia?

Have the pharmaceutical chemists of Canada given the B. P. of 1898 careful study, and become convinced that our official guide falls far short of meeting the requirements of a work of its character, that it is merely a book of reference, and not a book from which one can directly work?

The absence of molecular weights, saturation tables, statements of extent of solubility at definite temperatures, alcoholometric tables, statements as to percentage of purity the volumetric determinations convey, occasional explanatory notes, and other omissions too numerous to mention, are inclined to induce the pharmaceutical chemist to discard the book, and consult some commentary to supply that which the official standard should furnish.

Is there not some ground for suspicion that there is a design on the part of the Pharmaceutical section of the General Council to play directly into the hands of the proprietor of "Squire's Companion," by withholding matter from the B.P. that would make it a convenient work-book, knowing that the other work referred to would supply the same, thus making it imperative on the part of the pharmacist to purchase the "Companion"? Why not, then, have our own Pharmacopœia, wherein many of the drugs and preparations of daily use in Canada, and not official in the B. P., may be properly treated, and the general and specific information now conspicuous owing to its absence in the work referred to supplied.

Yours truly,

DISAPPOINTED PHARMACIST.

You will be what you make yourself, not what your father's dollars make you.

Every man's will is the wheel upon which he either climbs to success or rolls to ruin.