

being equally efficacious, and beside being devoid of odor has the advantage of being readily prepared, extemporaneously prepared in every pharmacy.

Liquid Chlorine as an Article of Commerce.

The recent improvements in the methods for producing chlorine, on a large and economic scale, from chloride of magnesium, immense quantities of which are rendered available particularly at the extensive Stassfurt mines, have been instrumental in starting a new industry, viz., the manufacture of liquid chlorine and its easy transportation. Heretofore the production of chloride of lime and other substances requiring a continuous application of large quantities of chlorine gas, had to be conducted at the place where the latter was generated. Hereafter it will be possible to carry the gas, in a compact shape, to such factories or places as may require it. Of course, in the manufacture of chloride of lime it is not likely that the new method will displace the old one for some time to come. But chlorine is required for many other purposes; and if it can be transported without loss or risk there are many technical branches in which the chlorine will be preferred to chloride of lime. Indeed, as is well known, the latter is merely a convenient form of storing and handling chlorine. If the free chlorine obtainable from a hoghead of chloride of lime can be confined and transported in a vessel holding a quart, this will be a decided advantage.

The chlorine gas, after having been liberated by a simple process from the chloride of magnesium, is pumped into an apparatus where it is perfectly free from moisture by contact with sulphuric acid, and forced, under strong pressure and proper cooling, into a steel receptacle or fountain, in which the liquefied chlorine is stored and shipped.

It has been found that dry chlorine does not act upon cast iron, wrought iron, steel, phosphorous bronze, brass, copper, zinc, or lead, either alone or in presence of concentrated sulphuric acid.

For transport, liquid chlorine is best forced into iron or steel vessels. When the gas is wanted these vessels are connected with suitable conduits, so arranged that no moisture can reach the interior of the vessels.—*American Druggist*.

College of Pharmacy.

THE TWENTY-THIRD OPENING AN AUSPICIOUS ONE.

The unique and pretty building of the Montreal College of Pharmacy on La-guachetiere street was formally opened Oct. 1st in the presence of a large number of students and friends.

When the college was organized in 1867 the motto "Vincet Qui Patitur" (He conquers who perseveres), was adopted and faithfully the motto has been adhered to. The original cost of the new

building was \$6,650 and the sum of \$1,400 has been expended on furniture and alterations. The treasurer now holds sufficient money to meet the next payment, due May 1st, 1891, and when this is paid the net debt will be only \$2,947. Towards the cost of the building \$5,740 was subscribed by the wholesale and retail trade, the clerks in stores and friends of the college, and through the kindness of Premier Mercier \$250 is allowed as an annual grant.

Considering these facts it will be seen that the institution is now on a solid basis, and as one of the speakers remarked it needs but the continued perseverance of those engaged in the work to make the college one of the best on the continent.

In his opening address President David Watson extended a hearty welcome to all who wished to become members and urged upon all present who were interested in pharmacy to at once hand in their names and join the college. He spoke of the organization of the college and of its incorporation in 1879. This was the twenty-third opening and it could well be claimed as the most auspicious which they had yet enjoyed. It was but a short time ago that they had to call upon friends for financial aid to continue the work, but he was glad to say that the college is now self supporting.

Mr. Henry Lyman was received with enthusiasm when he arose to speak. He reminded the students that he had been busily engaged in pharmacy for sixty years and during this time the many encouragements they had received had aided them in the work until to-day every man engaged in the profession was proud of his calling. In Montreal the progress of their own college was very satisfactory. In the commencement it seemed like a root in dry ground, but it had survived a long struggle for existence. Its watchword had been advance and it had succeeded in all its aims. He was glad the students had now a habitation as well as a name. He wanted the young men trained to counter dispensing; they should be encouraged in this branch so that they would be a credit to the profession.

Addresses were also delivered by Mr. Alex. Manson, Dr. Desnoyers, Dr. Reid, Prof. Bemrose and Dr. Hingston. The latter gentleman was very humorous in his opening remarks, but finished with sound advice to his young hearers. He spoke of the duty of a druggist to be so trained that in case a doctor made a mistake in a prescription the druggist could correct it or rather could ask the doctor if it was correct. Mistakes of this kind had often come under his notice and he could assure them that physicians would feel a great security when they knew that they were dealing with educated druggists. He paid a high tribute to Montreal pharmacists as being equal to any on the continent.

A pleasant hour was spent at the close of the meeting in social intercourse and merriments. Refreshments were served

in a room adjoining that in which the opening took place. Altogether the building contains eleven rooms, all of which will be used by the college, except the space occupied by the caretaker.

Detonation of Tablets Composed of Chlorate of Potassium and Chloride of Ammonium.

The mixture of the above salts, which has been in use for some time as a popular remedy for mouth and throat affections, has been viewed with suspicion, as a probable source of mischief on account of the decomposition resulting between them.

After a few weeks, chlorine compounds are evolved, noticeable by the odor, and by the effect on the organic material which may be in contact with or near them.

If the quantity of the tablets is large, sufficient heat may be generated to cause spontaneous combustion, should circumstances favor it.

We had a new experience with them a few days since. A lot of the tablets, more than a year old, were removed from the small bottles in which they are usually put up, and four ounces of them placed in one bottle and finished for delivery. While standing undisturbed, a loud explosion occurred, and the bottle containing the tablets was almost pulverized—the concussion breaking several other bottles in proximity, although they were protected by pasteboard cases.

The cause of the detonation may be looked for in the formation of chloride of nitrogen, as one of the resultants of decomposition between the salts. This experience determined us to deposit the remainder of our stock of the tablets in the Delaware River for safe keeping!—Chas. Bullock, in *American Journal of Pharmacy*.

[We have had similar experience with these tablets, not only resulting in an explosion, but bursting into flame on exposure to the air. —Editor CANADIAN DRUGGIST.]

THE SCANDINAVIAN PHARMACOPEIA.—A pharmacopœia commission met in Copenhagen at the end of August or the beginning of September to discuss the leading principles for a united pharmacopœia for Sweden, Norway, and Denmark.

Animal charcoal owes its decolorising properties to the fact that it absorbs the coloring matter; but a recent investigation by Cazeneuve reveals the fact that if the charcoal is cooled in air it also possesses oxidising properties, and some coloring matters which it withdraws from liquids it also decomposes. It is owing to its oxidising property that it darkens phenol compounds and tannin matters.

A census of pharmaceutical chemists and dentists in Russia will be taken in September. The last enumeration was made in 1888.