

showing the association to be in a good financial standing with a surplus on hand.

After the business had been transacted, the members adjourned to "Newport's" dining hall to enjoy an excellent repast provided by the Committee on Entertainments.

After partaking of the refreshments, regrets were read from Messrs. Geo. Rutherford and Geo. La Riche, of Messrs. J. Winer & Co., and the following list of toasts were proposed:—

"OUR QUEEN AND COUNTRY,"—The company sang God Save the Queen.

Alderman P. C. Blacher, chairman of Finance committee of the city council, made a very patriotic and eulogistic speech.

"OUR GUESTS AND THE WHOLESALE TRADE,"—Responded to by Mr. J. McHaffie, of Messrs. J. Winer & Co., and Mr. Archdale Wilson, of Messrs. A. Wilson & Co.

"ONTARIO COLLEGE OF PHARMACY."—Mr. John A. Clark responded, giving an account of the work entered upon by the council, the enlargement of the college, increase in instruction, personnel of the new staff, the large attendance of students and financial matters of the college.

Mr. Clark also gave a very full account of the changes in the membership of the association and in the drug stores in the city during the past seven years, giving statistics of the number of stores in 1881 and 1891, relative proportion to the population in comparison with the city of Toronto and the province in the same, which clearly showed that considering all points our city was as fully supplied with drug stores as Toronto and more in number to the population than the Province.

"PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE ASSOCIATION."—Mr. R. Brierley in response gave an interesting account of the condition and number of druggists and appearance of our city some thirty years ago.

Reading by Mr. Robt. Stark.

"PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, HAMILTON DISTRICT."—The President, Mr. A. Vincent, responded in his usual good style.

Song by C. O. Baker.

Reminiscences of old times by R. Brierley, R. Stark, Archdale Wilson and others.

Recitation by M. C. Wild.

"THE LADIES,"—Responded to by C. O. Baker.

A vote of thanks was tendered to the wholesale druggists, Messrs. A. Wilson & Co., and J. Winer & Co., for their kindness in supplying the "extras" which added to the enjoyment.

The members dispersed at 1.30 a. m., having spent a very enjoyable evening together.

A very cordial feeling exists among the members of this association and also between the members and the wholesale druggists of this city.

J. W. SUTHERLAND, Sec.

Sow good deeds and reap a harvest of sweet remembrances.

Nova Scotia Correspondence.

THE ETHICS OF QUACKERY, with some thoughts on the true relation of the retail druggist to his customers as unremunerated "Guide, Philosopher and Friend," in sanitary and medical matters.

An ancient wise man said there was "no new thing under the sun," but he lived before the age of patent medicines, or advertising agents. To one who, like the present writer, has for forty years been conversant with the misleading and conscienceless character of patent medicine literature, it is, to say the least, amusing, to learn of an advertising agent for fifteen patent medicines posing, at a recent trade gathering in St. Paul, as a preacher of righteousness, and sternly denouncing the retail druggists of the country as sinners above many, because, in the interests of their customers they sometimes recommend some other "sarsaparilla," &c., than that for which said agent at present works. The theory advanced appears to be that the advertiser has acquired a species of proprietorship in the suffering public and the drug trade, to such an extent that it would be an actual wrong for the druggist when asked by his customer for a particular make of tonic or corn cure, &c., to intimate that he was prepared to supply as good or a better article of the same kind by another maker. The preposterous character of such a pretension is only equalled by the fatuous malignity which seeks to affix a wholesale stigma to such a body of men as the retail druggists of America; and the appropriate recognition, on their part, of the attack, should be a discountenancing along the whole line of the various proprietaries said advertiser represents. The makers, in that case, would soon call off their dogs, in view of the fact that *the dealers collectively* are more necessary to the maker, than the makers are to the dealers.

The incident referred to above directs attention to the relation sustained by the druggist to his customers, as a trusted and expert adviser in constantly recurring medical and hygienic matters, a position which he occupies by the *will and favor of the people*, and for which he, as a rule, has singular fitness, both as a result of special training and long experience, and from which he is not likely to be soon dislodged by the tirades of wholesale quacks on the one hand, or the machinations of envious young medicos on the other.

The retail druggist, when consulted by his customer, charges nothing for his advice, and has precisely the same right to give it that the clergyman, or other friend of the sick man, possesses, and exercises, too, without let or hindrance, and on this right of free speech—the birthright of every Briton—the druggist should take a firm stand, prepared in its defence to battle against all comers. The fact that he may have for sale the article, whether of his own or some other person's compounding,

which he believes will benefit his sick friend, is evidently no argument against his bona fides in recommending it, inasmuch as he charges no more for the goods than he would if his customer came in and ordered them without a word of preliminary consultation. The druggist does not go out of his shop to seek or attend patients. He does not advertise himself as a medical practitioner, nor, as I have said, does he take a fee. He is always sought by those who consult him, the initiative is taken by the customer, and his rights, as well as those of the druggist, are assailed by those who would curtail the functions of the latter. The judicious druggist (and the great majority are so far judicious) never undertakes to deal with dangerous diseases, or those with obscure or threatening symptoms. He recognizes the gravity of such cases more fully than do most other men, and invariably counsels prompt recourse to the best available medical skill. He is always on hand when wanted, and is, in short, about the most generally useful member of the community where he resides.

The growth, especially during the past twenty years of wholesale quackery, not only in the line of vulgar cure-alls, but in the more insidious form of proprietary elixirs, and sugar and gelatine coated pharmacopoeials, together with the baleful arts of the ubiquitous cutter, have rendered it especially desirable for every druggist to prepare and push his own line of proprietary medicines, while giving undiminished attention to the manufacture of such pharmacopoeia goods as his local trade demands; and the pharmacist of high character, who pays due attention to these matters, will find that the majority of his customers, both professional and lay, will prefer the home made article nine times out of ten.

J.

Halifax, Oct. 10, 1891.

Notes From England.

EARLY this month the new regulations concerning the minor and major examinations of the Pharmaceutical Society came into force. Besides considerably extending the scope of the former examination subjects, two subsidiary portions have been added in the shape of practical work in pharmacy and also with the microscope. Hitherto the *viva voce* examination in pharmacy has been based upon the recognition of galenicals and questions as to their method of preparing the same. Now, however, a candidate will be expected to show practical acquaintance with the manufacture of plasters, extracts, etc., and processes such as distilling, evaporation *in vacuo*, etc. The manipulation of the microscope will come in both materia medica and botany, candidates being liable to be asked to determine by sectional examination under the microscope whether a drug is pure or if the sample is adulterated. Both additional subjects are of immense practical importance and will tend to a more thorough knowledge of both scientific and practical pharmacy.