

Let each profession zealously strive to raise the standard of its own body, and let the motto be in healthy rivalry "Excelsior!"

Pharmaceutical education has been very thorough on the Continent of Europe for a long time, and in England recent laws have made the attaining of a license to practice pharmacy quite a difficult matter, dependent on a long course of study, with practical work in the laboratory and behind the counter. In the United States the pharmacists as a body are fully alive to the necessity for stringent legislation, and in some states restrictive enactments have become law. In Canada, three provinces, namely, Ontario, Quebec, and Nova Scotia have Pharmacy Acts, which are rigidly enforced. The Quebec Act is the most stringent, inasmuch as it exacts a curriculum of study in addition to practical experience behind the retail drug counter. While, however, advocating the necessity of a scientific training for the pharmacist, it must not be forgotten that he is practically obliged to sell, in order to make his business remunerative, a vast number of articles which any ordinary person, with little or no education, could as easily do. The advance in rational medicine, so little understood as yet in this country, has discontinued the use of many remedial agents, and has greatly limited the rather too liberal administration of drugs which marked an era now, happily for the public, almost passed away. Any pharmacist of ordinary perspicuity cannot fail to have noticed that the most highly educated physicians use the fewest and simplest drugs. The consequence of this change is a decrease in the returns of the pharmacist; formerly a highly remunerative occupation, it is now most difficult in cities where expenses are high to make a respectable living, consequently the pharmacist is driven to enter into competition with mercantile men to earn in trade what his own art, *professionally conducted*, refuses him; hence the vast increase of patent medicines, articles de toilette, confectionery, soda water, artificial flowers, and many other things found in so many of our best pharmacies to-day.

"It is not all gold that glitters" is a saying very applicable to the modern apothecary, one half of whose modest capital is usually, to keep pace with the times, spent in plate-glass and gilding, and whose balance, when salaries, rent, and taxes are paid, is too frequently on the wrong side of the ledger.

BLACK HAW.

BY H. ROSSER, MONTREAL.

Viburnum Prunifolium.

This shrub or tree, known also by the name of sloe, is found very abundant throughout the Middle and Southern States, growing to the height of from ten to twelve feet. It flowers from March to June, and at this season presents

a handsome appearance. The bark of the root, stems and branches are medicinal, that of the root being preferred. It is fawn-colored, with a feeble odor and a very bitter astringent and aromatic taste. It contains extractive matter, tannin, gallic acid and a peculiar resinous principle for which the name *viburnin* has been proposed. Black Haw is tonic, astringent, diuretic and alterative, and has been used internally in chronic diarrhœa, dysentery and palpitation of the heart. It appears to exert an especial tonic influence upon the uterus, and is highly recommended in cases of threatened abortion and as a preventive in cases of habitual miscarriage. In the latter case its use should be commenced a week or two previous to the aborting period, and continued during the remaining period of pregnancy. Dr. Phares of Mississippi considers it to completely neutralize the effect of cotton root bark when used for the purpose of abortion. The decoction has been used as a gargle in aphthæ, and as a wash to indolent ulcers. The dose of the powdered bark of the root is from half to two drachms. The most convenient form for administering is the fluid extract, the dose of which is the same as the powder.

To the Editor of the *Pharmaceutical Department* CANADA
MEDICAL RECORD.

DEAR SIR,—In the annual report of the Pharmaceutical Association of the Province of Quebec, published in the *MEDICAL RECORD* of last month, it may be observed that the retiring council recommend the new one about to be elected to endeavor to secure by Act of Parliament certain amendments to the present Act, by which they will acquire more power as a licensing body. Among other items suggested as desirable is, that all physicians keeping drug stores in this province shall be compelled to take licences authorizing them so to do from the Pharmaceutical Association of the Province of Quebec.

Now this is what may be regarded as an endeavor to introduce the thin edge of the wedge; how much further it may or can be driven remains yet to be seen. Perhaps, as in accordance with the laws of that Association, students in medicine will not be allowed to serve or do duty in these doctors' drug stores until they have passed examinations, first as apprentices and secondly as qualified assistants, before the Examining Board of the Pharmaceutical Association. Again, perhaps, the apothecaries of our hospitals, convents, dispensaries, and other charitable institutions will also be compelled to qualify before the same Board:—indeed the question may even be raised whether physicians or surgeons are competent to dispense their own medicines, since they have not yet received licenses from what desires to be the only licensing body in this province.

It can hardly be expected that the members of the Medical profession in this province will