

verbal arrangement is made for four years, and a small salary given from the commencement, the apprentice, as a rule, residing with his parents. There can be no doubt the English system is the most thorough, and has many advocates; nevertheless, in this country, where changes of proprietorship are so frequent and business men not so firmly established, the American system is the most practicable.

The Introductory Lecture of the coming session of the Montreal College of Pharmacy will be delivered by Joseph Bemrose, Lecturer on Chemistry and Pharmacy, on Wednesday, October 2nd, at half-past eight, p.m. The public is invited to attend. Intending students should send in their names at once.

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

DEAR SIR,—I was much surprised to see that there still existed any medical man who was willing to oppose the chemists of Quebec in raising the standard of their profession. The chemists do not wish to infringe upon the "rights and privileges" of the medical profession, but they have a laudable desire to secure all that properly belongs to them. It is absurd to talk about hospitals, convents and dispensaries, and even with regard to them it would be much better for such institutions to have a regularly qualified pharmacist. It would do two things, save expense and give greater confidence. Drug stores carried on by medical men are notoriously ill-managed, and I can positively affirm, from my own personal knowledge, difficult prescriptions are carefully shunned and sent to other stores. As far as I can learn, the profession generally is in favor of the ground taken by the Pharmaceutical Council, that physicians who secede from their own profession and open drug stores should pay the annual license as druggists. If the Pharmaceutical Council contemplated anything in the way of examination of licensed physicians, I should then certainly oppose them.

I remain, yours very truly,
PROGRESS.

REVIEWS.

On the Therapeutic Forces.—An effort to Consider the Action of Medicines in the Light of the Modern Doctrine of the Conservation of Force. By THOMAS J. MAYS, M.D. Price, \$1.25. Philadelphia: Lindsay & Blakiston, 1878.

The author having firmly espoused the belief that the action of medicines in the animal body is, like everything else, amenable to unchanging

laws, and that it is our duty to unravel and elucidate these laws, he proceeds to give a brief outline of the principles which underlie the action of some of the most important therapeutic agents in the light of the modern doctrine of the conservation or persistence of force. Viewed from the present standpoint of physical science, he thinks we have great reason for believing that every phenomenon in nature must be viewed as the effect of force, and can only be interpreted intelligibly when reduced to the terms of the latter; and he further thinks that the claims of therapeutics, as being a part of the grand chain of natural phenomena, are just as legitimate as those of physiology or any of the other concrete sciences.

Fownes' Manual of Chemistry. Revised by HENRY WATTS, B.A., F.R.S. American edition. Edited by Robert Bridges, M.D. Philadelphia: Henry C. Lea, 1878.

This is a very old friend with a new face, and in new attire; but the character of the work, as a well-arranged and highly-condensed student's manual, is well maintained. The original manual was inimitable for clear and concise definition, and, although the book has gradually grown under the care of Dr. Hofmann and the late Dr. Bence Jones far beyond its original proportions and design, we welcome the reduction of its more recent predecessors to the limit of a single volume, of convenient form, clear type, and excellent illustrations.

The student will value the clear and full expositions of *Physical Science*, and the *tabular form* of so many facts which are thus more readily retained in the memory. The medical practitioner will turn with pleasure to its copious index for the most recent facts in the somewhat hazy and nebulous domain of organic chemistry. The Chemical Professor will also largely profit by the systematic arrangement of its matter, and the glyptic formulæ in which the composition of complicated organic compounds are indicated. In point of fullness of detail, the work is a *Modern Dictionary of Chemistry*. In its explanations, it is a clear and able treatise, embracing many valuable tables from the standard works of Graham, Miller and Gmelin; together with the invaluable alcoholic tables of the lamented author. Fownes' Chemistry has maintained a favorable reputation in Europe and America, as a Student's Text Book, for the last quarter of a century, and in its present form is deserving of a place in every medical library, as a work both of exposition and of reference.

J. B. E.