

of the thousands discovered and introduced probably not half a dozen will prove of any permanent value. During the year the patent on antipyrin expired and with it came a great drop in the price, which is now less than a quarter of the former price. Phenacetin still continues in favor with both physicians and smugglers. Every once in a while one of the latter gets caught trying to defraud the American customs, but the U. S. patentee is still as active as ever in defence of the monopoly he has under the iniquitous copyright and patent laws. Among new remedies which have come into considerable use during the past year, although introduced previous to this, are orthol, orthoform, protargol, argonin and ferratin.

PHARMACY LAWS.

Pharmacy laws have been subjected to considerable criticism and changes. In France the old law dating back to the early days of the great Revolution has been under discussion and a new law introduced, one provision of which wipes out the distinction between *pharmacien de premiere classe* and *seconde classe*, so that in future all will be on the same footing.

In England, the Pharmacy Act Amendment Bill became law. It likewise does away to a certain extent with the grades of *chemist and druggist* and *pharmaceutical chemist*, in so far that the members of the former class can now become members of the Pharmaceutical Society and will have all the privileges of the latter.

Another bill introduced was the Poisonous Substances Bill, which was intended to put greater restrictions on the sale of poisons. It did not become law, as such opposition was shown that the government, despairing of passing the Bill, withdrew it for this session.

In Canada, the attempt made by certain cutters and department stores to alter the Quebec law was unsuccessful, although it was a very close shave. We have already referred editorially to this so that there is no need to again refer to it.

In Ontario the amendments to the Pharmacy Act were beneficial to pharmacists, but here again, if it had not been for the watchfulness of some of the Toronto pharmacists, the changes would have amounted to nothing.

In Quebec several prosecutions were undertaken against department stores and grocers for contravention of the Pharmacy Act, and judgments were rendered in favor of the Association.

An important step was taken by the Quebec Association when the matter of the sale of patents, and projected amendments to the Pharmacy Act, was brought before the College of Physicians and Surgeons and their aid requested in blocking any proposed amendments. The acquiescence of the College brings a powerful ally to the Pharmaceutical

Association, which will be effective in legislative work.

ADVANCES IN CHEMICAL SCIENCE.

In the line of research work in organic chemistry, the German are, as usual, accumulating facts bringing us nearer to a clearer conception of the constitution of alkaloids, volatile oils, and other organic compounds. In inorganic chemistry, Ramsay has augmented the number of known atmospheric constituents, by his discoveries of krypton, neon, and metargon. Brush, of Cincinnati, has also added another element which he calls etherion, and which may possibly be the ether of philosophers. Crooke, in continuing his researches on the rare earth, has separated an element for which he proposes the name Monium, the atomic weight of which, he states, is about 118.

THE DEATH ROLL OF THE YEAR.

The hand of death has been busy among the ranks of scientists during the past year, the roll of those who have at last solved the great mystery of life and whose names stood high in the annals of science is probably greater than for many years past. One of the first was Sir Richard Quain, President of the General Medical Council, who had been prominently connected with the publication of the British Pharmacopœia since the first issue of 1867. He died early in March at the age of 82.

Sir Henry Bessemer died on March 15th, aged 86, full of honors and wealth. Bessemer's invention of the process for making steel, known by his name, has probably more influence on the advance of civilization than any other invention of the age, not even excepting the telephone, for by it it has become possible to gridiron the world with railroads, which could hardly have been done with steel rails at their former price.

George Dragendorf, the great teacher of pharmaceutical chemistry, and rector of the Pharmaceutical Institute at Dorpat till a few years ago, was one whose place in pharmacy will be difficult to fill.

Baron Playfair, noted as a chemist and authority, also died during the past year.

Dr. E. J. DeVrij, the eminent quinologist and Hanbury medalist, passed away after an active and useful life spent in the work of utilizing to their fullest extent the great medicinal properties of the cinchonas.

In Canada we have had to deplore the loss of Jno. E. Burke, a former well-known druggist of Quebec, but who retired several years ago, and Dr. J. D. Kellock, of Perth, and Hugh Miller, of Toronto, one of the oldest druggists in the country.

COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL.

During the past year business was good and the opinion is general that we have at last entered upon