

### SHORTER HOURS FOR DRUGGISTS.

THE druggists of Greater New York are agitating for shorter hours, J. Gallagher, an old Montrealer, being at the head of the movement. Mr. Gallagher contemplates having a law passed to prevent drug stores being open for more than five hours on Sunday, namely, from 8 to 10 a.m., 12 to 1 p.m., and 6 to 8 p.m., but it seems that great difficulty will be encountered in putting any such law into operation, and the most strenuous opponents will be in the ranks of the retail druggists. The way in which the retail drug business is carried on in Canada and the United States, as far as the hours of labor are concerned, offers but few inducements to anyone to enter it, and if there were any necessity for it, it might be excusable, but there is not. Why should pharmacies be kept open all day Sunday, when a few hours would suffice to supply all legitimate demands? The custom is wrong both legally and morally. The druggist has no legal right to sell toilet articles, soda water, cigars and the various other luxuries which constitute the bulk of Sunday sales, and whatever doubt may exist on this point, none can exist as to the moral aspect of the question: "Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy works, but on the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God; thou shalt do no work on it, thou nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy man servant," etc. The command is explicit and leaves no room for dispute on this point. But it may be urged that the pharmacist keeps open on Sunday for the sale of remedies, and it is impossible to refuse to sell anything called for; this is very true, but the custom of remaining open all day is responsible for this state of affairs, and it could easily be remedied by opening for a few hours only, and then for the dispensing of prescriptions and sale of necessary medicines alone. It is also urged by some that if in certain cities, candy and cigar stores are allowed to remain open, that drug stores which sell the same goods should also be allowed to open. On this point all we have to say is that the pharmacist who has no higher appreciation of his professional standing than to argue on these lines, is not worthy to be classed among reputable pharmacists. "Business is business," but Sunday business has never made any one a cent richer, nor ever helped to raise any trade or profession in the estimation of the public, but on the contrary has a degrading influence in every direction.

We are not purists and do not believe in the Puritan Sabbath, which is not justifiable on either Scriptural or hygienic grounds, but we believe in one day of rest in the week, when getting away from the atmosphere of the shop, one can ramble through the fields and woods

to come in contact with nature, to breathe the fresh air, to leave behind the petty worries and annoyances of everyday drudgery and feel that one is not the slave of the public. One day of rest will amply repay you in increased vigor and aptitude for business, and it can easily be done; if you must stay open for four or five hours on Sunday, it can be arranged with your staff that each clerk will have his turn every alternate Sunday to spend all day away from the store, and you will find that your work will be better and more cheerfully done, and your bank account be none the less at the end of the year, and your standing in society much higher.

### THE BICYCLE IN PHARMACY.

WE do not refer to the sale of bicycles and accessories by the pharmacist, as has been proposed by some of our contemporaries as a profitable side line, but to the use of the bicycle and the bicyclist as a means of bringing business to the pharmacy. In France, where everyone from the President to the gamins rides the wheel, it has apparently become the practice for pharmacists in the country parts to send out a bicyclist to hunt up prescriptions to be filled by his employer and the remedies are then carried back to the patient by the same agency. But the more enterprising, not content with this increase in business, have acquired the habit of giving the bicyclist a small stock of medicines to carry with him, and sell when opportunity offered when on his prescription collecting tours. Recently one of these wheeling unlicensed pharmacists was arrested for the sale of a bottle of borated vaseline, and fined 500 francs; but as it was his first offense the fine was remitted in accordance with the Berenger law, but his employer, who was a pharmacist, was held responsible for the damages to the Societe Syndicale des Pharmaciens de l'Yonne, the department in which he had his place of business.

The use of the wheel for this purpose has not been introduced on this side of the water yet, but perhaps it will not be long before we see the silent steed employed as a portable pharmacy.

### THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE USE OF ETHER.

THE jubilee of the use of ether as an anæsthetic, was celebrated by the medical and surgical societies of the world on Oct. 17-18. The discovery of ether is credited to Valerius Cordus, the compiler of the first dispensatory ("Dispensatorium Pharmacopolorum"), and one of the most celebrated physicians of the 16th century; but to Hoffman, a physician of Halle, is due its introduction into general medicine as a stimulant. The use of