

## FAIR PROMISES.

We observe one common note running through the varied reports of the St. Louis meeting, contained in the different drug journals. That note was the desire, yea, anxiety expressed by the manufacturers to placate the retailer. The "Three branches in harmony," "Similarity of Interests," "Injury to one, injury to all" gush was worked over time. There is a peculiarly familiar sound to these glib phrases, which reminds us not of departed friends, but shattered hopes and unrealized anticipations. We have no desire to rank as pessimists, but most sincerely trust that these expressions will mean more to our American confrères than similar gush did to ourselves when we were endeavoring to enlist the aid of these same manufacturers. We also sincerely hope that the future course of events may not be such as to create in the minds of all honest men a higher admiration for the *five prominent proprietors* who absented themselves from the love-feast and hand-shaking rather than attend and indulge in fair promises which in their hearts they had no intention of keeping. Our desire is not to damp the ardor of the newly formed association, nor to discourage its enthusiastic workers, but to sound a warning note against being deceived and misled by honeyed words and alluring promises of aid that is liable never to be rendered. There is nothing so productive of skepticism as an experience of unfulfilled *fair promises*. We say then plainly that the experience of the Ontario Society of Retail Druggists teaches with an emphasis this one lesson, and we offer to our sister organization the fruit of our experience without money and without price. *Expect nothing from the proprietor except what you can wring from him by a force which he is clearly unable to withstand.* The only line of reasoning to which he is amenable is that conducted by the instrumentality of a club.

## A DISTINGUISHED PHARMACIST.

Mr. W. E. Atkinson, member of the O. S. A. and fellow C. R. A., has lately arrived home from Europe, where he has spent the last two years cultivating his art in England, Holland and France. Mr. Atkinson is among the best known of Canadian artists, his pictures having been the recipients of most flattering notices by art critics and been accorded prominence in the Society's exhibition. He is at present arranging an exhibit of his works at the establishment of Messrs Matthews Bros. on Yonge St., where they will remain during December. A visit to the rooms will repay admirers of first class paintings.

Mr. Atkinson is a son of Mr. W. T. Atkinson, of Oshawa, one of the fathers of Canadian pharmacy, and is himself a graduate of the O. C. P. His studio is in the Equity Chambers on corner of Adelaide and Victoria Sts., where he will be pleased to see any old friends.

## Editorial Notes.

Reed & Carnrick, manufacturers of maltine and other well known preparations, are putting up an immense laboratory building in Jersey City, which will be one of the largest and best equipped in the United States.

The "Quickcure Chemical Co." has been incorporated in New Jersey with a capital of \$1,000,000, to manufacture and sell "Quickcure" and other compounds. The incorporators are Henry Ievers of Quebec, P. Q., F. N. Whitney of Elizabeth, N. J.; Louis E. Carr, Jr., E. B. Burpee, and L. C. Ilfeld, of New York.

A new chemical club is to be organized in New York, and chemists throughout Canada and the United States have been asked to guarantee the necessary expenses or to become members, resident or non-resident. So far forty two of the necessary number of guarantors have been secured. The secretary is Marston Bogert, Columbia University, New York.

The November issue of the *American Journal of Pharmacy* contains an article by Prof. Remington entitled "Fluid Acetracts," which is devoted to a consideration of the use of acetic acid as a solvent in pharmacal operations, with which he has been experimenting for several years. It is already shown that acetic acid possesses many advantages over alcohol. First and perhaps most important is the vast difference in price, and the difference is about twice as great in Canada as in the United States, seeing that the retailer here has to pay about \$5 a gallon for his alcohol while his American confrère gets it for about \$2.50 per wine gallon. The solvent power of acetic acid on plant constituents is about equal to that of alcohol, so that acetic extracts in almost all cases can be made as strong as those prepared with an alcoholic menstruum.

Dr. Squibb has used acetic acid in the preparation of fluid extracts of spices with satisfaction, and the writer has also successfully used it in similar cases. No good reason exists why the acid should not be used in cases where the odor or taste would not be objectionable, as with most fluid extracts; for tinctures which are administered in large doses the taste might be objected to, although a menstruum of acetic acid, glycerine and water has been in constant use in the London Temperance Hospital founded by the late Dr. B. W. Richardson.

A bill has been passed by the Legislative Council of Victoria making the B. P., 1898, the official standard for that colony.