

CANADIAN DRUGGIST.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE GENERAL DRUG TRADE AND TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF PHARMACY

VOL. 2.

TORONTO, MARCH, 1889.

No. 3

THE CANADIAN DRUGGIST,
6 Wellington St. W., Toronto, Ont.,
and Strathroy, Ont.

WILLIAM J. DYAS, - Editor and Publisher.

SUBSCRIPTION, \$1 PER YEAR, IN ADVANCE.
Advertising Rate: on Application.

The Canadian Druggist is issued on the 15th of each month, and all matter for insertion should reach us by the 5th of the month.

All cheques or drafts, and matter intended for the editor, to be addressed to Box 438, Strathroy, Ont.

New advertisements or changes to be addressed.

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CORRECTIONS.—A couple of errors crept into our report of the meeting of the Ontario College of Pharmacy, which appeared in the February number. On page 13, speaking of the re-engagement of Professors, it reads Prof. D'Avignon, whereas it should be Prof. Avison, and Mr. Haven is also mis-reported in reference to a request of the Professors on page 12.

Answers to Correspondents.

"F.," Prince Edward Island—To go into business in Ontario, it would be necessary to pass the prescribed examinations.

"R. A.," Winnipeg—(1) Yes, four years' apprenticeship is now required under the Ontario Pharmacy Act. (2) Write to I. T. Lewis, Registrar Ontario College of Pharmacy, Toronto.

The State of Trade.

There are two sides to every question, and while dry goods dealers and furriers have been complaining of the mild weather, poor people have been rejoicing in the saving of coal, warm clothes, etc. So also while the epidemic "La Grippe," which has of late visited every part of Canada, has been playing havoc with business in general, the benefit accruing to the drug trade from increased prescriptions has been much greater than some people would imagine. There can be no doubt but, that owing to bad roads, farmers have been deterred from selling their grain, and that in consequence the storekeepers have suffered from want of cash, but this can of necessity be only a temporary disarrangement which must right

itself in a few weeks. What is wanted now is a little patience on the part of the wholesale dealers and their banks, so as to avoid unnecessary pressing of payments, and thereby bring about failures which can as easily be warded off. To the retailer we would say, "Be business like." Wholesalers just now are on a constant tension owing to failures, and more than the usual number of requests for renewals, and when a draft is allowed to be returned without any word from their customer, they are a little apt to jump at rash conclusions. Make it a rule therefore to look after your drafts two or three days in advance, and if you fear you cannot meet them in full, write at once to the houses in whose favor they are drawn, and state plainly what you can and cannot do. We can safely vouch for them that if you act straight with them they will do what is right by you. In another month with the opening of spring all will be well again—at least, so say the wise heads.

Brushes.

There are decided signs of a rise in the price of hair, tooth, nail and other brushes in the Canadian market very shortly. At present we understand the wholesalers are selling off the stock they have carried over from last season, and which they can afford to dispose of at their old prices, but when that is sold it is more than probable that dealers will find that they cannot duplicate at old figures. The cause principally is a rise of 40% in the price of bristles, which is a very large increase for goods sold on such close margin as brushes. It is said that this rise in bristles is principally the result of the formation of a meat canning trust of gigantic size, who have bought up all over Europe the product of this seasons hog farming, and whose method of treating the animal—as is well known to any one familiar with the Chicago stock yards—is extravagant as compared with that of the prudent farmer, who saves his bristles as carefully as he does his pork.

Another reason why brushes are to be dearer this year is, that in Paris the great centre of brush manufacturing, where the prices are set for the world, the Grippe epidemic has been so widespread that almost every industry has been closed. The largest brush maker in France, Loonen, who em-

plys 1,400 hands, had over 700 sick at one time, and was compelled by the authorities to close down so as not to spread the plague. This same trouble affected all the makers, and lasted so long that the orders for brushes that should have been filled in December and January are not yet made up. There is always comfort in the fact that orders were taken by the makers at old prices before the epidemic, but if the invoices are accompanied by a new schedule of prices, it is more than likely that the goods arriving will be sold on the basis of the new schedule. Another month or six weeks will tell at any rate.

Atomizers.

The most perfect atomizer ever shown, has lately been invented in New York, by an exceedingly clever German mechanic, who has for years been working in the hard rubber manufacturing. The usual complaints made by those who use hard rubber atomizers, are, first, that they do not eject a continuous spray without a double bulb, and second that the projecting point of rubber which is exposed when the tip is unscrewed is very liable to be broken. In this new instrument, or "Health Atomizer" as it is called, the inner tubing is not allowed to extend over the end of the outer tube when the tip is unscrewed, and is thus thoroughly guarded against all accidents. The importance of this change can hardly be over estimated, for as every atomizer is made by hand, if the tip is broken it cannot be repaired by simply sending for a part and is therefore rendered useless. In most rubber atomizers, too, the screwing of the tip, though square, does not leave sufficient room for the air—hence the poor spray? In the "Health" the air chamber is many times larger than the liquid cylinder, the air being admitted into the tip by two tiny holes, the spray resulting from the mingling together being almost marvelous. Another improvement in this atomizer is a soft rubber end to the tube that extends into the bottle, thus rendering the top parts applicable to any height of bottle, the cork being a rubber one, tapered so as to fit various necks. Unlike the German atomizers, the bulb used is of soft rubber fitted with a Millard valve, which though simple, is undoubtedly the most reliable valve made. Altogether the "Health" is a very pleasing addition to the list of atomizers at present in use.