

we naturally desire to know about the preparation of licorice and find the list in the Dispensatory of those that are official in the Pharmacopœia of the United States, and we look around the store and examine the various preparations in stock which are made wholly or in part from licorice.

Ontario Provincial Pharmaceutical Association.

The second annual meeting of the Provincial Pharmaceutical Association of Ontario was held in the lecture theatre of the Ontario College of Pharmacy, Toronto, on the afternoon of Wednesday, September 13th, 1893. President William Murchison, Toronto, was in the chair, and there was a very small attendance of members, which was the more to be regretted owing to the value of the papers which had been prepared for consideration and the important business which it was intended to bring before the meeting.

Having called the members to order, the President at once proceeded to deliver his annual address which was in the following terms:—

Fellow Members of the Ontario Pharmaceutical Association:

In attempting to perform the duties assigned me as President, that of addressing you upon matters of interest to us as a body, I find many subjects come before my mind which, while deserving of liberal attention, can only receive passing notice owing to the limited time at our disposal for the practical treatment of questions vital to our interests as pharmacists.

As an organization, this body has been constituted to promote the following objects:

To unite the Ontario drug trade commercially as it now is legally and educationally.

To foster such a relationship between druggists, physicians and members of other professions as will strengthen our position while leading to the promotion of the public welfare.

To encourage an investigation of the natural products of our country of interest to the pharmacists.

To generate a Canadian pharmaceutical system which shall give us the prestige we should properly enjoy as educated pharmacists.

To cultivate pharmaceutical literature from native talent, and to encourage original chemical research by members or graduates of the Ontario College of Pharmacy.

To establish a code of ethics which will serve to maintain a correct relationship between our members, and to support the Council of our College in all matters pertaining to the educational training of our apprentices, and to advise with them on legal measures sought to be secured.

Possibly my presentment of these objects is not as attractively put as it might be, but I have no doubt but all are desirous of their attainment and are equally

willing to put forth the effort to secure the ends aimed at. To secure even the least of these we must have a united body, a strong membership, an adequate fee, and an active executive. We are either here to work and to organize for extended work or here to indulge in platitudes and take a holiday. I trust the former, and have mapped out some of the ideas evolved from a consideration of the objects I have just mentioned.

1st. To unite the drug trade commercially as it now is legally and educationally. Perhaps no object in the list is of the same importance to each member of the trade as this one. The financial side of our business is one which we cannot afford to ignore however much we may desire to cultivate its professional or scientific aspect. The necessity for a commercial existence compels us to adopt and defend lines of trade which, while worthy of proper cultivation, are not, and are not likely to become, exclusive to the business of the pharmacist. The inroads recently made upon portions of our business which we had come to look upon as belonging exclusively to us, have taught us that we can only keep what we can defend. Naturally we desire to defend all we can, and a consideration as to how this can be best accomplished is at once opportune. Acting as individuals, our power to do so is limited to the possession of a knowledge of the properties and character of drugs not possessed by others, who would encroach upon this field also if they dared. As a means of defence this power is rightfully and deservedly ours, but the volume of trade protected by it has now become so limited that more potent means of self-preservation must be cultivated. I do not suggest or advocate that this body become an organized commercial institution, but that we endorse the independent existence of the company now incorporated for the purpose of controlling, by our combined and interested support, a volume of trade which was speedily becoming lost to us. Even for the time during which a limited support has been accorded this enterprise the success attained has been such as to assure us of the permanency of its character and the practical benefit which can be derived from its co-operative maintenance. In my opinion the aim and operation of the company will most effectively bring about the co-operative union desired, and at the same time maintain the status of the trade we are engaged in.

2nd. To foster such a relationship between druggists, physicians and members of other professions as will strengthen our position while tending to the promotion of the public welfare. The desirability of a cordial relationship between the doctors and druggist is evident. The allied character of their work and the supplementary aid which must be rendered by the pharmacist calls for an educational training and knowledge on his part which will inspire the fullest confidence on the part of the physician. The reputation of the one is so dependent upon the aptitude of

the other, and the public welfare is so dependent upon both that any failure to do justice to either profession in honest effort and intent, at least, is deserving of the severest censure. In aspiring to link ourselves with professions of a more definite standing we do ourselves honor if we can worthily take rank with them. As we are, or become, what we make ourselves, our efforts for advancement are deserving and will receive deserved recognition. It is frequently stated that pharmacy is not properly a profession, or the pharmacist a professional man. It is quite true that the commercial part of our business is not professional, and as equally true that the mechanical part of any professional pursuit is not professional, but when we come to consider that the acquirement of any professional appellation is due to the training received while fulfilling legal requirements as to length of service and educational standing, we see that in this sense our right is as good as those who fulfil similar requirements for other purposes. To cultivate a cordial relationship with any professional body we must strive to maintain such a position of prominence that our company will be sought and appreciated. We have no reason to feel ashamed of the position we have already attained. The rapid advance in educational requirements of sister Colleges has been steadily met by a like advance in our own, until to-day we occupy a position which secures us a ready recognition from professional bodies everywhere throughout our Province.

3rd. To encourage an investigation of the natural products of our country of interest to the pharmacist. I think we are all free to admit that this is an open field as yet, and that the provisions of nature in furnishing valuable medicinal products has yet to be taken advantage of by the Canadian botanist. While ignorant of the natural resources of Canada in this respect as my average confrere, I am aware that Canada does produce in quantity and quality very many of the most valuable plants of the *materia medica*, and I am convinced that the herbalist who chooses to collect here will find the field a varied and profitable one. Any country which can exhibit a cultivated flora which will take a prominent position in a world's competition need not fear but her natural flora will furnish ample evidence of later matured plant excellence. How to encourage investigation in this subject is a problem which I have not been able to solve satisfactorily, but it has occurred to me that the offering of one or more valuable treatises upon this subject as prizes for essays on the native medicinal plants of Canada might bring out the results of research not dreamed of by us. The essays to become the property of the Association and to be in the hands of the committee appointed to make the awards at least three months before the annual meeting. Papers thus furnished would be interesting and instructive, and if of real merit would form a nucleus for additional work and stimulate an enquiry