

Gardens, the plants are growing rapidly and look healthy, and the opinion is that in the higher districts in India the tree might be cultivated to advantage.

There is no doubt that as Formosa now furnishes the chief camphor supplies of the world prices will be regulated entirely by the company holding the monopoly.

#### A Frank Attack.

An esteemed correspondent, Mr. Wm. Jackson, of Victoria, B.C., has taken us severely to task for an editorial in our last issue on the abuse of prescriptions by druggists. Mr. Jackson does not believe that the onus should be all put upon the druggist, and asserts that if the physician desires to limit the use of his prescription he can do so by writing upon it "not to be repeated," when the druggist could put the responsibility upon him in refusing to renew, and permit him to fight it out with his patient. The fact of the matter is that the shifting of the responsibility is the cause of the whole trouble, neither the doctor nor druggist having the moral courage to act as both know would be for the best. The druggist doesn't want to risk the loss of a customer by appearing more strict than custom would warrant, and the doctor doesn't want to have to fight it out with his patient, as our friend puts it. Rather than do this he takes the easier, more politic and more lucrative course of putting up his own prescriptions, as, by this means, he can absolutely control his practice without harming or wounding the feelings of anybody, except, of course, the druggist.

We do not admit we were in the slightest degree wrong in our contentions in our editorial, but must admit our appreciation of the frank manner in which our correspondent has taken us to task for our apparent going back on our own profession. Our sympathies are at all times with the druggist, but our judgment will not always act in accordance with them. We would like very much to see every doctor write his prescriptions, and have them dispensed by the druggist, yet we know that the physicians all over Canada are daily adopting a policy which cuts out the druggist from participation in their practice, except as a convenience, and we are convinced that the causes we have mentioned are very largely responsible for this state of affairs.

We will be glad to have the views of a number of our drug friends who must be

interested in this matter, and whose opinions would weigh very much in generating a policy beneficial to the trade at large.

#### The Sale of Liquors in Manitoba.

A bill has just been introduced by the Hon. Hugh J. MacDonald, Premier, in the Legislative Assembly, Manitoba, entitled the "Liquor Act," which is intended to regulate the sale of liquor in that province, or as the preamble of the act puts it, "to suppress the liquor traffic in Manitoba by prohibiting provincial transactions in liquor." The act makes the wholesale and retail druggists of the province the sole vendors of spirituous liquors, which according to the bill include "all spirituous and malt liquors, and all combinations of liquor and drinks and drinkable liquors which are intoxicating."

Two sets of licenses are to be granted, namely, "the druggist's wholesale license," and the "druggist's retail license," the former giving authority to a chemist or druggist duly registered as such under the act relating to the Pharmaceutical Association of Manitoba, to sell subject to the provisions of the act, alcohol not exceeding in quantity 10 gals. at any one time to a person for mechanical or scientific purposes, and to sell to a registered medical practitioner, and to a druggist holding a druggist's retail license, liquor not exceeding in quantity 5 gals at any one time.

A druggist's retail license entitles a duly registered chemist or druggist to sell liquor for medical purposes, and only in quantities not to exceed 6 oz. at any one time, and that only under a *bona fide* prescription from a registered medical practitioner, or if for sacramental purposes it may be sold to a minister of the gospel upon his written or printed affidavit according to a schedule which is set forth in the act.

A record of all sales either by the wholesale or retail druggist must be kept in every case in books specially prepared for that purpose. This record must state the time when sale was made, and the name and address of the person to whom it was sold.

In reference to the wholesale license it is stipulated that a holder of the license shall carry on "exclusively the business of selling drugs and drug sundries by wholesale or in unbroken packages," and that the premises shall not be opened after 7 o'clock Saturday night until 7

o'clock Monday morning, and from 8 o'clock at night until 7 o'clock in the morning on the other nights in the week.

The amount of fees charged under the act is for each druggist's wholesale license \$250, and for a druggist's retail license \$50. All applications for licenses must be accompanied by an affidavit of the applicant and two reputable persons verifying the statements made in the application, and bonds must be given by the applicant or principal for \$500, and two securities of \$250 each.

The act also provides that the building for which the license is granted must be suitable for carrying on the business in a reputable way and in conformity with the act, and the licensee must have in such business a stock of drugs to the value of \$1,000 if in a city or town, and if elsewhere of at least \$500. It also gives permission to a regular physician to give to his patients a written or printed prescription, stating in the prescription the disease for which it is given, or he may administer the liquor himself, but no such prescription is to be given except in cases of actual need, otherwise it would be held to be an evasion or violation of the act, and would be subject to the prescribed penalty.

It will be seen that the sale of liquor for domestic purposes will be confined exclusively to the wholesale and retail drug trade (permission being given to manufacturers of liquor in the province to produce the same for sale outside the province).

As this bill has only been introduced, it is probable that some amendments may be made before its final passage through the legislature, but as it has been introduced by the Premier as a Government measure, it is altogether likely that it will pass without material amendments.

A question has been raised by the Hudson Bay Co. as to the validity of the act, they claiming that under the terms of the sale of their former rights they are entitled to sell liquor without any regulation by the Provincial Government. This, we understand, will be made a test question after the bill passes the House.

#### The Sale of Liquor in the Province of Prince Edward Island.

The Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island has passed a bill prohibiting the sale of alcoholic liquors except for medical, sacramental, scientific or mechanical purposes. The sale will be confined to druggists, both wholesale and retail. We have not yet received a copy of the bill, so that particulars are not available.