

THE STANDARD FOR TINCTURES.

At the annual meeting of the Pharmaceutical Association of the Province of Quebec, held June 13th, the President, in his address, stated that there is no legal standard for tinctures in this country. He says: "A topic which it may be as well to draw attention to at this time is the question as to how far pharmacists are justified in supplying tinctures made according to the United States Pharmacopœia. Neither the Dominion Parliament nor the local legislatures have as yet legislated on the subject. * * * Nothing that I can find obliges us legally to use the British Pharmacopœia. Custom alone has sanctioned its use amongst us. * * * Meantime it is apparent to me that, although custom has sanctioned the pharmacist in Canada in making his tinctures and other pharmaceuticals according to the British Pharmacopœia, there is really no law at the present moment obliging him to do so."

This way of putting the matter, we believe, does not express exactly what the President meant. The only law bearing on the case at all is the Dominion law regarding adulteration, and this leaves it an open question whether the British or the United States Pharmacopœia is to be used, and even that much is only stated indirectly and as a means of preventing tincture from being too weak, there being apparently nothing to regulate the exact strength; as long as a tincture is up to proof it may be as much over as the manufacturer chooses.

That the Government is of the opinion that there is a legal standard is shown by the following paragraph, taken from one of the daily papers:

"ADULTERATION PROSECUTIONS."

"Several city druggists have been served with notices from the Department of Inland Revenue calling upon them to pay the cost of analysis for certain samples of tinctures sold by them to the inspector of food for the Province, which on examination were found to be adulterated within the meaning of the adulteration act. The costs in each case amounts to 12 dollars."