

cumstances, would be the most likely to create antagonism, unless their actions were sufficiently loyal to save them. The general drug trade, in its individual membership, would not feel the absolute cutting off from their trade of even the best-selling patent remedy on their shelves; but the manufacturer, who is entirely at the mercy of the individuals, would be doomed in a month.

The Toronto druggists, at least, are not very much influenced by the fear of the consequences to themselves in the method to be pursued. They are pretty well over the departmental store scare, and are beginning to realize the power they possess when unitedly applied. Their town and village confrères can rely upon their co-operative action in any event, and can enter into this contest feeling that there is something to work for and to win, and a splendid prospect of success crowning their loyal efforts.

#### Legislation on Optics.

That the science of optics is one which has in the past been a subject which has not received the recognition which it deserved is now generally conceded. That very important member of our body, the eye, has quite as much, or, in fact, more reason to receive careful and scientific treatment for its weaknesses, as well as its ailments, as has perhaps any organ of the human system; yet how often is it most shamefully treated and its ailments aggravated at the hands of those who have no conception of what is required! The establishment, however, of schools for the purpose of instruction in everything pertaining to optics has worked a change in this matter, and now there are numbers of graduates of these schools or institutes throughout the country who can be safely depended upon to treat defects of vision practically and scientifically.

There is no doubt that ere long legislation will be enacted which will prevent the public being imposed upon by those who are totally ignorant of what is required by the skilled optician, and which will also guarantee to the practical man a degree of protection such as will render his calling that of a profession instead of a mere vendor of goods.

An act is now before the legislature of the State of New York, asking for the incorporation of the Optical Society of that state, and its objects are outlined in a letter which has been addressed to the

daily press by one of the promoters, and in which he says:

"It will lawfully sustain the opticians' traditional right to adapt glasses to the sight. It will protect the public against misrepresentations on the part of the optician as to his abilities and lawful functions. It will secure a higher scientific and practical proficiency on the part of the optician, which is undoubtedly for the public welfare.

"To attain these objects the society seeks to be vested with the power to qualify by a proper examination all those men who desire to become opticians after the passage of the act.

"All opticians now engaged in business as principals and their appointed representatives at their respective places of business will not be required to pass an examination, but will receive certificates, entitling them to continue their practices as heretofore, provided they shall have recorded their names and addresses with the society not later than ninety days after the passage of the act.

"By such means the society will have a record of all opticians who now have the unrestrained right to practise in the State of New York. Beginning with this stage the society proposes that all men hereafter wishing to become opticians for their own account must submit to and pass an examination by the Board of Examiners, which shall be composed of members nominated by the society, but under the jurisdiction of the state.

"In presenting the bill before the legislature, it was essential to introduce a clause limiting the amount which should be charged for certificates, but which limitation will be discretionary with the legislature to allow. Within the legalized limitation, it will be wholly discretionary with the society subsequently to fix the charge."

#### Pharmaceutical Association of the Province of Quebec.

The semi-annual examinations for major and minor candidates will commence on Tuesday, April 14th, 1896, at 9 a.m., and will be held in the College of Pharmacy, 595 LaGauchetière street, Montreal. Candidates must file their applications, duly certified, with the registrar, on or before the 4th of April. Printed regulations and form of application must be obtained from the registrar, and be duly signed by the applicant.

Candidates who have failed more than once in their examinations will be required to pay the full examination fee.

No applications for examination will be received after the 4th day of April.

E. MUIR, Secretary-Registrar,  
595 LaGauchetière street.  
Montreal, March 5th, 1896.

#### Snap Shots.

Newfoundland druggists are becoming modernized—they are cutting prices.

An international pharmaceutical exhibition will be held in Prague between August 15 and September 15 next.

The retail drug trade in the United States is not pleased at the advance in price of Paine's Celery Compound.

With the advent of spring, what about a stock of photographic instruments and supplies for the amateur photographers of your neighborhood?

Bicycling has proved a blessing in more ways than one to the drug trade, many druggists now acting as agents for bicycle firms and doing quite a nice business.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain has succeeded in having a grocer fined for selling fly paper containing arsenic, in contravention of the Pharmacy Act.

What patent medicine house made that large cash sale to a department store just previous to the date agreed upon with the Retail Association? retailers are enquiring.

Another new drug journal has made its appearance, and, strange coincidence, the CANADIAN DRUGGIST never had such a demand for its advertising pages as for the present issue.

We are pleased to be able to report the hearty co-operation of the wholesale drug trade in the plan agreed upon with the retailers. Many large orders have been refused, where satisfactory evidence was not forthcoming as to the destination of the goods.

Possibly, relying on the advertisements of the departmental stores, that druggists were getting "400 per cent. profit," burglars have been making raids on several Toronto drug stores. As far as ascertained, they have not been able to find the advertised article.

#### An Explanation.

Editor CANADIAN DRUGGIST:

SIR,—In your February number "Montreal Notes," I notice that your correspondent gives me the honor of presiding at a meeting of retail druggists recently. Please correct this in next issue.

Mr. W. H. Chapman was chairman at the meeting referred to, while the secretaryship was accepted by

Yours truly,  
J. L. FRENCH.

Cinnamic acid has been detected among the decomposition products of crude cocaine. According to H. Tranfeld, when crude cocaine is exhausted with boiling water, the latter takes up the greater part of the free cinnamic acid, which may then be isolated by means of its calcium salt.