

## THE DRUG TRADE.

## THE CHEMICAL MARKET.

Messrs. Sarge & Co., of Manchester, review the chemical trade as follows for the past month: Since the publication of our last a considerable change has taken place in all matters chemical. Life and activity have taken the place of lethargy and indifference, and the closest attention has been paid to the upward course of prices during the month. It may be said that makers have completely captured the position as the disposition to undersell and discount values has given way to a nervous wish to cover imprudent sales, even at a loss, rather than take further risks. Merchants who may have sold too early and consumers who have waited too long to cover their requirements, are disappointed. Makers, who, as a body, have sold freely during the last few weeks are disposed only to commit themselves to further engagements at a premium, and while the promises of healthy trade for some time to come justifies the policy, the increasing cost of raw materials and labor to an extent demands it. The greater bulk of the larger contracts has been entered for on fair mutual terms, but there remains still a considerable quantity of business for next year's delivery to be placed. Orders for current delivery have been disappointing in volume, markedly so during the past week, as the end of the quarter was reached, still further and advancing prices have been obtained without difficulty. The board of trade returns have come out very favorably, all the classified items showing an advance of from 15 per cent. to 30 per cent. compared with the corresponding month of last year. Bleaching materials noted an increase of 35 per cent., mainly continental business. Altogether the markets are in a healthy and strong position; stocks are low, the prospects is favorable, and there is every promise of active and remunerative trade. Bleaching powder has sold largely on contract, at a strong advance on late rates. Caustic soda continues to move upward. A few days ago a further increase was declared on export orders at 10s per ton. Alkali is dearer, though in good supply. Carbonate and caustic potashes are sought for; makers are firm, and require to be tempted to sell forward. Sulphate of copper has been active and in large demand; the tendency is still upward, notwithstanding threatened American competition. Glycerine has secured an increasing amount of attention, and is in a favorable position. Acids generally are unchanged. Prussiates of potash and soda are more active, and have recovered. Sugars of lead seem to have passed the lowest, and are quoted at advancing rates. Salic acid has improved, and promises to be much dearer. Arsenic remains steady, receiving little attention.

## DRUG TRADE NOTES.

All patent medicines sold in Canada are to be advanced in price 5 per cent. This has been decided by the Canadian Proprietary Medicine Association, according to a Toronto report.

The position of cocaine is attracting a great deal of attention in the drug trade at present. The price advanced again in eastern markets a few days ago, making the quotation nearly double that of ten weeks ago. Advices from primary markets all indicate that this article will maintain its firm position for a considerable time.

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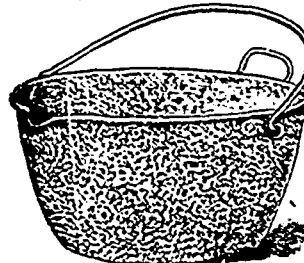
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