

gross they have made in the highly important science of chemistry.

"Had I been able to attend the meeting this evening, I should have endeavored to state the objects had in view in the formation of the 'Canadian Pharmaceutical Society of Ontario.' I may take this method of doing so in very few words. The great object has been to promote a high standard of knowledge on the part of all those in any way employed in the dispensing and compounding of materials used in medicine, and to prevent those not properly qualified engaging in the sale of articles of a dangerous and poisonous character. Every person will at once perceive that those objects are calculated to further the well-being of the community generally, and especially those whose misfortune it is to be afflicted with illness in any form.

"I am happy to say that those who have been the promoters of this Society, have received very great encouragement in their design. Although the Society has been in existence only about twenty months, it has on its books about two hundred and fifty members, consisting of the most intelligent druggists and apothecaries and their assistants, in the Province of Ontario. The Society has established a monthly periodical, called THE PHARMACEUTICAL JOURNAL, which is furnished to every member, and which has, in addition, a large outside circulation.

"The Society has also sent about twenty-five students to the Chemistry Class in the Mechanics Institute during the past winter, who have, I believe, done both themselves and their teacher great credit.

"A Bill was prepared for the purpose of incorporating the Society, but in consequence of the shortness of the session of the Ontario Legislature, it could not be got through in time.

"I think, therefore, that as our Society is desirous of adding its mite to advance the general well being of this "Canada of ours," it should, and will, receive the countenance of the whole community."

After the close of Mr. Elliott's letter, Dr. May was called upon to distribute the prizes, and in doing so, he alluded to the indefatigable diligence displayed by the students, and also alluded to the fact that Prof. Croft had made their test papers equal to those used in the first year at the University, and that the ordeal had been passed in the most creditable manner. The successful competitors then received the following awards:—

1ST. PRIZE.—*Pereira's Materia Medica, and Brande and Taylor's Chemistry.*

WILLIAM ROSE.

2ND. PRIZE.—*U. S. Dispensatory.*

ROBERT BREDIN.

3RD. PRIZE.—*Redwood's Supplement to the Pharmacopœia.*

JOHN BLOGG.

4TH PRIZE.—*For Punctual Attendance: Garrod's Materia Medica and Therapeutics.*

KENNETH MILLER.

Dr. May said that Prof. Croft had found it exceedingly difficult to distinguish between the proficiency manifested by the above students in their examination papers, and that Mr. Blogg was only three marks behind the

recipient of the first prize. In regard to Mr. Miller, he said that in addition to proficiency, he never missed a lecture.

One of the most interesting features of the evening was the presentation of a clock, accompanied by an address, to Dr. May, by the students of the chemistry class. These were tendered by Messrs. Youmans and Russell. Dr. May thanked the students in a very happy manner, and after speeches by several gentlemen, the meeting terminated.

#### EDITORIAL SUMMARY.

It is said that some persons in England, who regard the letter of the law more than the spirit thereof, are taking advantage of the clause in the Pharmacy Act, exempting dealers in patent medicines; to present laudanum, under new and attractive titles, as a proprietary remedy. It will be well for us to take a hint.

**NEW TEST FOR NITRIC ACID.**—A solution of sulphate of aniline has been proposed by M. Braun, as an exceedingly delicate test for nitric acid; it is to be regretted, however, that the reaction is the same as with hyponitric acid, so that these two substances cannot be distinguished by these means. To prepare the solution, 10 drops of aniline are mixed with 50 c. c. of dilute sulphuric acid (1 to 6). This solution is added, drop by drop, to twice its volume of sulphuric acid (sp. gr. 1.84). A glass rod is dipped in the solution to be tested, and then in the aniline solution. The presence of nitric acid is indicated by red streaks on stirring; a larger proportion of acid causes the whole liquid to become carmine red. By this means any contamination of sulphuric by nitric acid is instantly shown, and the presence of nitric acid in rain water, after a storm, is plainly indicated.

**ACID. NITRO-HYDROCHLORIC: DILUT.**—From experiments made on this preparation by W. A. Tilden to determine whether the process of the British Pharmacopœia possessed any advantage over that usually employed, he arrives at the following conclusions:—"That there is a loss sustained in following the directions of the Pharmacopœia, sufficient to render the nitro-hydrochloric acid a preparation variable in quality; also that there is no purpose served in delaying the addition of the water, unless the diluted product as administered has been quite recently prepared. He therefore recommends that the acids be diluted at once with the water, and stated that if the strong acids employed be of the prescribed degree of concentration, the result of such mixture will agree pretty accurately with the tests of density and saturating power indicated by the Phar-

macopœia; far more nearly so, in fact, than the dilute acid prepared strictly according to official instructions.

**LEAVES.**—The changes which take place in the color of leaves, in autumn, have been investigated by Wharton. Starting from the supposition that chlorophyl, the green coloring matter, is a compound color, and must therefore have for one of its elements a vegetable blue, capable of being reddened by acids; he argues that the juices of leaves, kept in a neutral condition by the vital forces, or by alkaline matter brought in the sap from the the earth, when circulation ceases, become acidified by the oxygen of the air, and therefore capable of reddening the vegetable blue of the chlorophyl. If this blue should be thus reddened, it ought to become blue again on being subjected to the action of an alkali; and Mr. Wharton's experiments prove this to be the case. Autumnal red leaves were exposed to an atmosphere containing ammonia, and in most cases the green color was restored. Frost probably plays no other part in causing the autumnal tints than merely in cutting off the circulation between the leaf and the tree.

**DECOLORIZING EFFECT OF ANIMAL CHARCOAL.**—At the close of a discourse delivered before the Chemical Society, by Dr. Wallace, "On the Chemistry of Sugar Refining," the President enquired if any gentleman present could inform the meeting whether the color-absorbing power of animal charcoal remains the same after the phosphate of lime contained in it has been removed by hydrochloric acid? Dr. Hugo Müller said that he had found from his own experiments in filtration, that the pure charcoal, though actually stronger in its action than the ordinary bone charcoal, is not so in proportion to the quantity; in fact, that the same quantity of charcoal, when the bone-phosphate is removed from it, is not so strong as if it contained the bone-phosphate. Mr. Williams said that he could fully corroborate this statement from repeated experiments of his own; that though the pure charcoal will of course do more than the common charcoal, bulk for bulk, there is no comparison in the real per centage action of the carbon in each case.

**THE PHARMACIST, Published by the Chicago College of Pharmacy.**—We have received the third number of this periodical, and are much pleased with its appearance. It contains a number of original articles on subjects of interest to druggists, two of which will be found in our present issue. We hope sufficient encouragement will be given to warrant the appearance of the *Pharmacist* as a monthly paper.