

distribution thus established would probably remain, and our contemporary thinks that the public should, without delay, be familiarized with this new pharmaceutical article. "Many drug stores," says he, "are of course not adapted to a department of this kind, but in nearly all the smaller cities and larger towns many of them are provided with superior facilities both for the sale and display of the popular vehicle, which bears a not distant relationship to the fascinating soda fountain and its votaries." It is pleaded that the bicycle, by reason of its health-giving qualities, may be even regarded as properly belonging to the materia medica, and it may also be added that the wheel bears a very close relationship to accidents, while the control of the cause of injury and the remedy may be considered as a clever combination.

Explosion of Carbonic Acid Apparatus.—The recent explosion in the soda water factory of Mr. J. J. McLaughlin, Toronto, by which the building was completely destroyed and surrounding dwellings much damaged, has not been accounted for in a very satisfactory manner. It has generally been attributed to over pressure in an old boiler, which was used for generating steam, but from a recent article in the *Scientific American* it does not appear unlikely that the carbonating apparatus may have had a share in the disaster. Our contemporary illustrates by reproductions from photographs the scene of a somewhat similar explosion in an establishment in Lebanon, Pa. A fire took place in the factory, and the gas in a cylinder expanded with sufficient force to blow out the bottom, and project the shell through the side of the building, across the street, into a dwelling house, where it did great damage before emerging in the yard behind. Another cylinder was turned completely inside out, blowing out its bottom and top, and tearing open the side. One of the cylinders is said to have been marked "Tested 3,700 lbs.," and if this be taken as a correct indication, the force exerted would have been quite sufficient to account for the damage done. These accidents show that soda water factories cannot be considered as being of a harmless character, and that in case of fire they may prove a great source of damage and danger.

The annual report of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain shows that during the year there were 1,552 candidates for the "preliminary" examination, of whom 46.5 per cent. were successful; 1,002 for the "minor" examination, of whom 36.4 per cent. passed, and 139 for the "major," of whom 50.4 per cent. were entitled to the diploma. These figures indicate that in the first examination the failures have increased somewhat, while in the latter the candidates showed a slightly greater proficiency than during the former year.

EXCISE AND CUSTOMS CHANGES IN SPIRIT DUTY.

THE following are the excise and customs changes in respect to spirits which were introduced on May 2nd by Hon. Mr. Foster:

130. There shall be imposed, levied and collected on all spirits distilled, the following duties of excise, which shall be paid to the Collector of Inland Revenue as herein provided, that is to say: (a) When the material used in the manufacture thereof consists of not less than 90 per cent., by weight, of raw or unmalted grain, on every gallon of the strength of proof by Sikes' hydrometer, and so in proportion for any greater or less strength than the strength of proof, and for any less quantity than a gallon, \$1.70.

(b) When manufactured exclusively from malted barley, taken to the distillery in bond, and on which no duty of customs or excise has been paid, or when manufactured from raw or unmalted grain, used in combination, in such proportions as the Department of Inland Revenue prescribes as malted barley taken to the distillery in bond, and on which no duty of customs or of excise has been paid, on every gallon of the strength of proof by Sikes' hydrometer, and so in proportion for any greater or less strength, and for any less quantity than a gallon, \$1.72.

(c) When manufactured exclusively from molasses, syrup, sugar or other saccharine matter, taken to the distillery in bond, and on which no duty of customs has been paid. On every gallon of the strength of proof by Sikes' hydrometer, and so in proportion for any greater or less strength, and for any less quantity than a gallon, \$1.73.

Resolved, that it is expedient to amend the Act 57-58 Victoria, chapter 33, "An Act to consolidate and amend the Acts respecting the Duties of Customs," by repealing the following mentioned items of schedule to the said Act, viz.: Nos. 7, 31, 32, 55, 80, 81, 82, 152, 392, 393, 394, 396 and 397, and No. 708 of the schedule "B" to the said Act, and substituting the following in lieu thereof:

7. Spirituous or alcoholic liquors, distilled from any material, or containing or compounded from or with distilled spirits of any kind, and any mixture thereof with water, for every gallon thereof of the strength of proof, and when of a greater strength than that of proof, at the same rate on the increased quantity that there would be if the liquors were reduced to the strength of proof. When the liquors are of a less strength than that of proof, the duty shall be at a rate herein provided, but computed on a reduced quantity of the liquors in proportion to the lesser degree of strength; provided, however, that no reduction in quantity shall be computed