

### PRELIMINARY NOTE TO PAST PUPILS OF PROFESSOR ATTFIELD.

DEAR SIR,—The retirement of Dr. Attfield, F.R.S., from professorial life forms a period in the history of pharmacy, and it is fitting this period should be distinguished by an acknowledgment of his long labors and great services.

It is not too much to say that no name is better known in English speaking countries, in connection with higher pharmaceutical education, than that of Attfield, and certain of his past pupils who have been guided by him personally, or who have been students of his book, desire to show in some appropriate manner the esteem and warm regard they have for him, and to give others the opportunity of joining them in a scheme for this purpose.

What form the recognition should take cannot of course be decided at present, as much will depend on the degree of favor accorded to the general project, but it is believed the most acceptable form it could take would be one in which all students of Attfield and his book, and his writings on pharmaceutical education, might join and have an equally important share, such as for example, the presentation to him of an illuminated album containing the names of pupils who have passed through Bloomsbury Square during Dr. Attfield's official life of 34 years there, and of those students of his well-known work on chemistry who feel that the honor and advantage of their calling have been promoted by Dr. Attfield's labors.

With this object in view it has been considered desirable to ask that contributions from gentlemen willing to be members of the committee (not attending meetings unless they please) shall not exceed \$2.50, other contributions not to exceed \$1.25.

It is not so much desired to raise a considerable sum of money as to get enough to pay the moderate expenses of the scheme. Perhaps to the album may be added a piece of plate, or some piece of physical apparatus not already possessed by the professor.

Every student in the foregoing widest definition of the word, whether in England or abroad, subscribing to the fund, is invited to send in his name for insertion in the album, to the undersigned.

JOHN MOSS,  
Treasurer and secretary *pro tem.*, 39 Tressillian  
Road, St. John's, London, S.E., or to  
PROF. JOS. BEMROSE,  
56 St. Furnille st., Montreal.

General Committee—A. C. Abraham, F. H. Alcock, H. R. Arnold, Horace Davenport, G. C. Druce, T. S. Dymond, E. J. Eastes, W. Elborne, E. H. Farr, Thos. Farries, G. B. Francis R. H. Parker, W. H. Francis, Frederick J. Hanbury, S. Hardwick, Edward Histed, A. D. Jowett,

William Kirkby, F. H. Lescher, W. A. H. Naylor, Francis Ransom, Charles Umney, John C. Umney, W. Lloyd Williams.

This letter will touch a responsive chord in the heart of every pharmacist in the English-speaking world. There are but few of us in business and entitled to call ourselves pharmacists who have not obtained that title by the aid of Prof. Attfield, through his admirable text-book on chemistry. Since the first edition appeared, down to the latest volume, we have all been helped over the rough road which led to our examinations; we have had the mysteries of the atomic theory, quantivalence, formulæ and equations made clear to us by the lucid explanations of Prof. Attfield, and now that he has retired from active educational work, it is only fit and right that not only those who studied directly under him, but also those thousands who studied under him through his book, should contribute a token of their appreciation of his work as a teacher, and "the esteem and warm regard they have for him." We hope our readers who have made use of Prof. Attfield's work, and there are many thousands of them in Canada and the United States, will not fail to add their names to the album which it is proposed to present to their teacher, and thus give a practical demonstration of what an influence his has been in pharmacal education. Subscriptions may be sent to the local secretary for Canada, Prof. Jos. Bemrose, F.C.S., one of Attfield's old pupils at the Bloomsbury square school, or to the editor.

### THE LONDON DRUGGISTS AND CHEAPER ALCOHOL.

WE are pleased that the druggists have taken this subject up in earnest. With commendable enterprise the London men appointed a deputation to wait on the Tariff Enquiry Commission during their visit to that city. Mr. Mattinson, of the London Drug Co., as spokesman for the deputation, presented a strong case in favor of a reduction in the tariff, pointing out that by reducing the customs duty from \$2.25 to \$1.70 the revenue would suffer no loss, as practically no alcohol was brought into the country. The druggist did not ask for a change of excise, but wanted a 20 per cent. protection only granted to the distiller in place of 259 per cent., of which 225 per cent. went directly into the pockets of the distiller. The more recent regulation requiring alcohol to be kept two years had crowded out the smaller distillers, and was in no way necessary or desirable for druggists' use. They wished to compel manufacturers to accept reasonable protection. They also complained of ambiguity of the tariff, and a different rendering in differ-