

Commercial Pharmacy.

The condition which prevails in the ranks of pharmacists in Canada is inducing a change which is commercial rather than professional in its character. The pharmacist who would like to aspire to a professional status is gradually learning that conditions will not enable him to arrive at and maintain a purely pharmaceutical standing. As a matter of necessity rather than choice he must adopt and pursue any and every commercial advantage which may offer itself regardless of whether it can be classed in pharmacy or not. The time has passed when it has been possible to make more than a respectable living out of the drug business pure and simple. The multiplication of drug stores and the successful advent of the cut-rate departmental store has vanished all hope of the practice of pharmacy becoming professional or even semi-professional for many years to come. It is regrettable that this is so, but, as regret will not remedy the matter, the chagrin felt will have to be pocketed and the present phase of business faced with as light a heart as possible.

An analysis of R. G. Dun and Bradstreet reports shows that druggists do not receive on the average a very high commercial rating. The few who have been successful enough to obtain it are those who have ventured to engage in adjunctive enterprises, and in business activity to have won a position which the commercial world has been bound to recognize. The future has nothing in store for the druggist who intends to remain satisfied with what may come to him. The spirit of enterprise will have to be fostered in the present generation of druggists if they are to reap the harvest of success which their antecedents gathered. The nimble sixpence is yet to the fore, but only the nimble brain and finger gets it. The ethics of professional pride will have to give way to the necessity for unprofessional profit, as the pharmacist will have to cope with antagonists who make no pretence of dealing on any other basis than dollars and cents. In education and perceptive training the druggist ought to be at least the compeer of any other business man, and there is no good and legitimate reason why he should permit himself to be tied down in the restrictive limits of what ought to be a profession but which in Canada is but a non-protected legalized evidence of trained ability. When the State will grant pro-

fessional privileges for professional training, then, and not till then, should our graduates hamper their prospects by considerations which at best are more fanciful than real. It is always wisdom to succeed, and if success cannot be attained along professional lines, then by all means achieve it along commercial lines. Be wise in your day and generation. You are not apt to have two chances. Take the first one.

Doctors and the B.P., 1898.

At the annual meeting of the Canadian Medical Association, held in Quebec last month, attention was directed by Dr. T. D. Reed, of Montreal, who is also dean of the College of Pharmacy in that city, to the new edition of the British Pharmacopœia and in the course of his remarks said:

He said that it was periodically revised, but that at the last revision in 1885 there were few changes. In that of 1898, however, 189 medicines are omitted, 80 new remedies are added and 180 changes are made. All of this necessitates the very greatest care and attention on the part of the practitioner, it is manifestly important that there should be absolute uniformity in the writing and filling of prescriptions. For this reason then the last corrections to the B.P. must be carefully studied and it should be adopted as the absolute standard for the Dominion. Accordingly in view of all these considerations and the fact that no date has yet been settled for the coming into force of the new B.P., he moved:

That, "whereas a revised edition of the British Pharmacopœia has been issued containing numerous and important changes, and whereas uncertainty exists as to the date when the British Pharmacopœia, 1898, is to be considered in force; *Resolved*,—That the Canadian Medical Association, in annual meeting assembled, recommends that October 1, 1898, be taken as the date on and after which, in the absence of instructions otherwise, physicians' prescriptions should be compounded with the preparations of the British Pharmacopœia, 1898."

Dr. Roddick also spoke at some length on the matter and read a communication from Great Britain on the subject, after which he announced his intention to move the appointment of a committee to consider the matter.

Dr. Reed resuming said that as this

was a Canadian association it should be loyal to the British Pharmacopœia, and announced his willingness that such a committee should be appointed. In some of the provinces the B.P. was not universally followed, as in Ontario for instance, though it should be so.

Dr. H. B. Small, of Ottawa, said that the B.P. was official in Ontario unless otherwise ordered by the Council, and asked where and when it was not followed in Ontario.

Dr. Reed replied that one instance he had in mind occurred two or three years ago in Ottawa, which was in Ontario, and that it took place in the department which deals with the adulteration of food, etc. A number of tinctures were bought all over the Dominion to be tested, and though they did not conform with the B.P. they were allowed to pass because they were up to the standard of the United States Pharmacopœia. Some time ago the sentiment in Montreal was tested by means of post-card circulars, and 99 per cent. of the doctors who replied favored the B.P.

Dr. Roddick moved the appointment of the following committee to impress the matter upon the attention of the Federal authorities: Drs. T. D. Reed and A. D. Blakader, Montreal; H. B. Small, Ottawa; Marois, Quebec; H. J. Cameron, F. N. G. Starr and J. A. McCallum, Toronto. This motion was also adopted.

Patent on Antitoxin.

Messrs. Parke, Davis & Co., Detroit, having recently been notified by Prof. Behring that he has been granted a patent on antitoxin by the U.S. Patent Office, have decided to refuse to recognize his patent or pay any royalty whatever. It was only after two unsuccessful attempts had been made that a third application succeeded in procuring the patent. As Park, Davis & Co. make one-half the antitoxin used in the United States, and had been manufacturing it for four years before the patent was granted; they intend to contest the matter in the courts, and are confident that they will succeed in disannulling the granting of the patent.

As antitoxin has not been patented in Canada there need be no fear of any complications arising here from the use of any make, and Parke, Davis & Co. have authorized us to say that, in all cases in the United States or elsewhere, they will protect their customers in the use of their antitoxin.