

because the salary paid to a first class assistant—one who has regularly served his time—in the majority of drug stores, is so wretchedly small, seldom exceeding £130, often not £100, that no one will remain, but, as soon as his apprenticeship is out, removes to the neighboring republic, or, in despair of ever becoming comfortably well off, abandons the business altogether. Now that the majority of our leading physicians are giving up the dispensing of their own drugs, and giving prescriptions, let those stores, who intend to do a prescription business, get good qualified assistants to superintend that department; *pay them well*, and one step towards doing away with these oft recurring mistakes will be accomplished. Though we have, in answering our first question, also, to a certain extent, done the same to the second, yet there are means which our legislature can use which we think would almost to a certainty prevent the recurrence of such lamentable accidents. At present, in all drug stores, the poisonous drugs, as tinctures of aconite and digitalis, are kept among other substances on the shelves, there being nothing to distinguish one from the other save the name on the bottles. It has been suggested in England to have the outside of bottles containing poisons, sanded, and their stopper made a peculiar shape, so that the moment the bottle was touched, the party would know he touched a bottle containing poison; or, if that escaped him, removing the stopper would again remind him. This is very good, but does not seem to us so likely to accomplish the end in view as what we are about to propose, though it might be included in it as an additional safeguard. We would suggest that every article of a poisonous nature should be kept in a case with glass doors which should be always locked, the key hanging at a known spot with a piece of brass attached having stamped on it—*poison case*. If such was rendered imperative, taking the key, opening the locked case, touching the bottles, opening the bottles,—all would remind the person he was handling poisonous substances. If some such plan as this was adopted we feel confident that it would, if not entirely, almost, remove the possibility of an error occurring. It is idle to allow the present state of things to continue, for the public do not feel secure, and are loudly calling upon their parliamentary representatives to take action in the matter. We hope that this session of Parliament will not terminate without some legislation on this subject.

Since the above was written, the case has been brought before the Grand Jury at Quebec, who have thrown out the bill against young Mr. Sturton.