

said that Mr. Jackson will now retire. Knowing Mr. Jackson's love for the country I presume he will now take his *otium cum dignitate*.

Mr. J. A. Harte's new store at the corner of St. Catherine and Metcalfe streets, is to be a stylish affair and will be under the management of Mr. Harte's son.

Business is abnormally flat in Montreal this month. In some parts of the city one may sit in a drug store for half an hour without seeing a customer; not even the proverbial directory fiend drops in.

There are rumors of still another drug store to be opened on St. Catherine st. between St. Denis and St. Lawrence, but I have not been able to obtain the name of the courageous party.

It seems astonishing the craze which exists in Montreal for opening new drug stores. To any well balanced mind it is evident they cannot all make a living. It is not every one who has a diploma who is competent commercially to run a drug store. There are now 5 drug stores on Bleury st., 8 on St. Lawrence, and on St. Catherine they are innumerable. Many of these stores keep open all day on Sunday and nearly half the night, certainly not much of a temptation for a sane man to adopt pharmacy as a profession.

Mr. Scarff, who was many years manager of the Medical Hall, St. James st., and who is now keeping a pharmacy on his own account on St. Catherine st. West, has accepted the position of examiner on the Board of Preliminary Examiners, which with Mr. W. S. Kerry and Mr. Duberger make a very strong Board, all three gentlemen being well educated and experienced.

Mr. Lachance has received a medal from the Commissioners of the Jamaica exhibition for some specialties of his manufacture exhibited there.

Mr. Bridon having retired from the Council of the Pharmaceutical Association Mr. R. Carriere was appointed in his place, having had the next highest number of votes at the annual meeting. Unfortunately Mr. Carriere's time is so much engaged that he cannot accept the position, therefore the council will have to elect some one else at its next meeting.

Our English Letter.

London, July 22nd, 1891.

CHLOROFORM has attracted a good deal of attention during the last few weeks in consequence of the statement made by M. Piclet, that he had been able to prepare absolutely pure chloroform by a new method. As far as is at present known it consists of submitting ordinary commercial chloroform to a freezing-out process, conducted both by extreme pressure and cold. The result is stated to be a true trichloro-methane absolutely pure—impurities separating by crystallisation—and stable. Unfortunately we have had recently a large number of deaths under

chloroform—medical men say much larger than usual. Consequently the discovery of the new method has suggested to our medical confreres that these unpleasant occurrences must have been due to impurities in the chloroform. It is not too much to say that at present there is no particle of evidence of any impurities beyond the 1 per cent. of spirit allowed by the B. P. as rendering the article more stable. During the last year, however, we have had two new brands of chloroform introduced on the market and largely employed by the medical men. The first is known as the "Warrington" chloroform, for which Mr. A. H. Mason is agent. Mr. Mason is known to many Canadians as having held for some years the position of manager of Messrs. Evans, Sons & Co., Ltd., at Montreal. He is now a partner with Mr. Geo. Seabury, in Seabury & Johnson, at their London house. This chloroform is prepared from acetone and has become known by that name. The other preparation of chloroform is made from mixed Ketone sources and is known as "Ketone chloroform." Besides these we have the pure (from absolute alcohol) and that made from methylated spirit. All of these answer the official tests and so far no impurities have been proved to exist in them. If M. Piclet has prepared pure chloroform which is stable without the addition of even the minute amount of alcohol at present allowed, it is an interesting discovery, but nothing more.

The editor of the *Pharmaceutical Journal*, Dr. Paul, recently laid it down as an axiom that only pure chloroform should be used in the B. P. preparations of chloroform. This was speedily proved to be erroneous, as the *Pharmacopœia* does not order it to be made from pure alcohol but only says it *may* be so made. Moreover, in the preface it is distinctly laid down that the processes may vary as long as the products answer the B. P. requirements as to tests, etc.

PHENOCOLL HYDROCHLORIDE is one of the latest additions to our ever-increasing stock of antipyretic. This body, which is patented and introduced by Schering, of Berlin, has advantages over antifebrin in that it is soluble 1 in 16. Although, at present, there are no advantages which phenocoll can claim over antipyrin, its freedom from taste and absence of influence upon the normal body temperature are favorable features. It has already been reported upon favorably in acute articular rheumatism and hectic fevers.

INFLUENZA REMEDIES during the recent re-visitation of the epidemic were almost entirely different to those upon which most physicians pinned their faith last year. Quinine, again undoubtedly was regarded as a sheet anchor, but salicylate of sodium, aconite and solution of acetate of ammonia were much more largely prescribed. Many of the wholesale druggists supplying doctors introduced compound quinine mixtures, containing quinine, aconite, phosphoric acid and aromatics.

Saline mixtures of nitrate of potash, acetate of ammonia and spirit of nitrous ether were frequently prescribed, whilst Dr. Turner has just announced the successful results obtained with over 200 cases by the simple exhibition of 20 grain doses of salicin, repeated at frequent intervals. Antipyrin and other antipyretics were much less frequently employed, whilst camphor and stimulating tonics replaced them in a large manner.

PHARMACEUTICAL POLITICS are very quiet just now, the much-abused pharmacy bill introduced by the Pharmaceutical Society into Parliament, having been withdrawn. Preparations are being made for the annual meeting of the British Pharmaceutical Conference which takes place this year at Cardiff. It is not customary here to have exhibitions of pharmaceutical products after this meeting, although all the principal wholesale firms exhibit at the meeting of the British Medical Association. The president of the Pharmaceutical Conference this year is Mr. William Martindale, F. C. S., who is a well known leading pharmacist and author of the "Extra Pharmacopœia." Prof. Redwood is taking great interest in the meeting and already a number of scientific and technical papers are promised.

FORMULÆ.—According to the *British and Colonial Druggist* the following is a good—

Carbolic tooth powder—Precipitated chalk 4 oz., powdered soap $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., powdered cuttle fish $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., carbolic acid 1 drachm, oil of cloves 4 minims, eau de cologne 30 minims. Color, if required, with carmine.

Arsenical weed killer—White arsenic 30 parts, caustic soda 20 parts, impure carbolic acid 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ parts, water to 100 parts.

Glyco-gelutine—Basis for suppositories, gelatine 6 drs., glycerine 12 drs., water 10 drs., dissolve by heat.

Effervescent saline—Powdered sugar 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., tartaric acid 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., bicarbonate of soda, 24 oz., Rochelle salts 3 oz., dried epsom salts 9 oz., powdered chlorate of potash 3 oz., mix.

Raspberry vinegar—Raspberries 1 lb., sugar 5 lbs., vinegar 1 gallon; macerate 24 hours and strain.

DERMATOL.—This name has been applied to a new substitute for iodoform, which is itself a bismuthic gallate. It is a fine odorless, saffron-yellow powder, non-hygroscopic, not affected by light or air and insoluble in all neutral solvents. It is non-irritating, somewhat absorbent, is non-poisonous, and doses of 2 grams daily have no unpleasant effect.—*Pharm. Zeitung*.

Coriandrol constitutes about 90 per cent. of the oil of coriander. It is dextrogyre, and has a specific gravity of 0.8679 at 15° C.

It is nonsense to speak of "trifles light as air." The pressure of the atmosphere is fourteen or fifteen pounds on every square inch of surface.