

west firmly convinced that "there's no place like home."

Mr. Crosby is now to be seen behind the counters of the *Apothecaries Hall*.

Mr. Rankin was one of the leading players at the opening performance at the new Masonic Opera House, receiving an ovation upon his first appearance, and many rounds of applause during the progress of the play.

Messrs. Johnson and Reddin and Darach have not yet returned from the World's Fair, but are nearing home as we go to press.

British Columbia Notes.

"Times are hard." October saw a slight upward turn in business and the druggist heartily appreciated the change. The rapidly approaching winter gives indications of being one of severe financial stringency, and very little credit is being given.

It is rather late to report the fact that the Council of the B. C. Pharmaceutical Association met in Vancouver Sept. 14th. There was lots of talk about enforcing the Act through the Province, as it had been reported that several druggists in each city were acting as though no law controlled them. The Council has talked this way before, but we believe that a bomb will burst among us shortly. If every druggist does the square thing there need be no trouble, but the trouble is that for the sake of making a few cents a man will often sacrifice his very self.

The semi-annual examinations were held in Vancouver on Oct. 4th and 5th. S. A. Muir was the only candidate and he succeeded in thoroughly satisfying the examiners of his ability to practice pharmacy and was granted a certificate as Licentiate. Credit is due his preceptor, T. A. Muir, of New Westminster, who has shown more than usual interest in the progress of his brother.

There is some talk of furnishing each member and apprentice of the B. C. Pharmaceutical Association with a copy of some pharmaceutical publication as a kind of acknowledgment for the annual fee. This is a splendid idea and one which we hope will not be dropped. Druggists ought to have a paper in order to keep up with the times.

We would like to know if there is likely to be any more said about a National Pharmacopœia, and has that "Dominion Association" died a natural death?

We anticipate lively times here shortly.—Wait.

The following is a cutting from the Vancouver correspondent of the *Victoria Times*, Nov. 4th:—

Nearly all the druggists in the city have been summoned before Magistrates McLean, Mellon and Schofield, charged with employing unregistered clerks. The case of Dr. McAlpine was heard this morning and decision reserved. It is understood that similar charges will be brought against Victoria and New Westminster druggists.

This has appeared since our writing and confirms our prediction that something would result from the decision of the Council.

Montreal Notes.

The *Chemist and Druggist* states that Monsr. Forain, a well known French artist, was interviewed by the *Gaulois* on his return from Chicago. In speaking of American pharmacies he said, "They are very gay and many of them exhibit portraits of actresses in their windows by the side of cat's skins for rheumatism and bottles of medicines. You go to these pharmacies for refreshments on Sundays. The proprietors scarcely claim to be *pharmaciens de la première classe*." It is well to hear outside opinion occasionally.

The question of using soft solder for canning acid fruits and vegetables is a serious question and cannot flippantly be disposed of by quoting tables of Professor Attfield, which may or may not be relevant to the question. In France soft solder is interdicted in such cases. Some years ago the late Dr. Richard McDonnell had a succession of cases of lead poisoning in the Montreal General Hospital and succeeded in tracing some of them to the metallic stoppers in ginger ale bottles. If I remember rightly, Professor Ruttan, of McGill, analyzed the ginger ale sent him by Dr. McDonnell and found quite an appreciable quantity of lead salts in solution. The Provincial Board of Health, of which Dr. McDonnell was then a member, corresponded with the patentees and manufacturers, and the composition of these metallic stoppers was with great promptness changed by them and no further trouble has since been reported. A bill with the object of prohibiting soft solder in canning fruits was introduced into the House of Commons a couple of years since, but was withdrawn for *commercial reasons*. It is evident that if the acid in ginger ale can affect the lead stoppers in the one case, the acid of tomatoes for instance can do the same in cans soldered with soft solder in the other. Canned fruits, however, are not the only things which might in the interest of the public health be looked into by the adulteration officials.

The next annual convention of the American Public Health Association will be held in Montreal next October.

The drug business in Montreal was unusually dull during the month of October. Complaints are heard from all parts of the city.

J. E. Defoy, druggist of 1789 St. Catherine street, we regret to hear is in difficulties. The stock and fixtures, amounting to \$2,518.39 by inventory, are advertised for sale en bloc. Charles Desmar-teau is the assignee.

It is expected that the very heavy business license imposed by the Provincial Government last year on retail traders will be considerably reduced at the coming session of the Legislature. Druggists

in particular feel it very onerous. I can cite a case where a Montreal druggist paid last year \$67.50 business license to the corporation and \$60 for the same tax to the Provincial Government, besides water rates and assessments.

Since the examination of Hooper before the police magistrate at Joliette, druggists in Montreal have been hard at work answering questions as to the properties of hydrocyanic acid. Strange to say, people have been seized with a desire to poison their dogs and they must do the deed with prussic acid. Fortunately, Montreal druggists are very conservative about selling poisons, and, in addition to enforcing the letter of the law, most of them have shop rules with regard to the sale of morphine, laudanum, prussic acid, strychnine, &c., requiring a doctor's prescription in every case.

Your correspondent, when an apprentice in England, refused to sell prussic acid to the Midland Railway Stationmaster of the town, who stated very plausibly that it was to poison rats. On being refused he went home and hung himself. As may be supposed this event made a lasting impression on your correspondent.

The classes at the College of Pharmacy are well filled this year, the larger number of students being in the French classes. Most of the lecturers have touched up their lectures to bring them up to date, a matter of much importance in materia medica.

Notes from England.

(From our own Correspondent.)

It is rather a curious fact that more students are initiated into the mysteries of the art of pharmacy at our London hospitals than in all the chemists' shops throughout the country. Every year some 300 to 400 young medical students have to undergo a course of practical pharmacy as part of their medical curriculum, and it would certainly be a rash computation to assert that as many apprentices enter the ranks of pharmacy annually. It is true that the instruction is necessarily short and incomplete, partly from the distaste exhibited by the students and partly from the limited period at the disposal of the teachers. To attempt in one course to educate students as to the theory of prescribing and the art of dispensing, together with a smattering of the Pharmacopœia and an elementary acquaintance of materia medica, is obviously absurd. The result is to be seen in the gross ignorance of incompatibles which is daily displayed by prescribers, whilst the dispensing doctors seem chiefly to rely upon ready-made mixtures and liquors which only require dilution with water. A visit to one of the larger hospitals is always interesting, and one of the trade journals here has recently described the principal London ones. The head dispenser, who is also frequently the teacher of pharmacy to the Medical College attached to the hospital, has supreme command of