

# CANADIAN DRUGGIST.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE GENERAL DRUG TRADE AND TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF PHARMACY.

VOL. 3. { PUBLISHING HOUSE, }  
{ STRATHROY, ONT. }

JULY, 1891.

{ 8 WELLINGTON ST. WEST, } No. 7.  
{ TORONTO, ONT }

## CANADIAN DRUGGIST.

WILLIAM J. DYAS, - Editor and Publisher.

SUBSCRIPTION, \$1 PER YEAR, IN ADVANCE.  
Advertising Rates on Application.

The Canadian Druggist is issued on the 15th of each month, and all matter for insertion should reach us by the 5th of the month.  
All cheques or drafts to be made payable to the editor. New advertisements or changes to be addressed

CANADIAN DRUGGIST,  
TORONTO OFFICE, STRATHROY, ONTARIO,  
6 Wellington St. West.

### SPECIAL REMINDERS.

We issue on the 15th of each month, therefore, Correspondence should reach us by the 7th. New Advertisements should reach us by the 7th. Changes of Advertisements should reach us by the 5th.

### The Public Safety.

In a recent number of the *Canadian Grocer* appears an editorial on "Paris Green and Hellebore," in which the editor assures its readers that "Hellebore is permitted to be sold by no one but druggists" (!) and advises them to let it "severely alone," but covertly advises the sale of "Paris Green," noting at the same time the special restrictions which must be observed as to its sale and registration. In another article in the same number of that paper appears a clipping from the *American Grocer* advising the keeping in stock in country stores of not only Patent Medicines, but also "hundreds of drugs," which "can be dispensed with as much safety by the merchant as sugar, and pay a very large and handsome profit," mentioning amongst others "Tinct. Arnica, Paregoric, Alcohol, Camphor, etc., in bulk, using a half-pint graduate for measuring the same." It is sincerely to be hoped that the majority of grocers and general store keepers in Canada have at least some regard for the lives of the general public and will not be led into the belief that these things can be handled indiscriminately, and by persons, the larger number of whom know nothing whatever of their composition or properties, and in whose hands, in some cases at least, life is endangered - this, to say nothing of the strict penalties which the various Acts of Pharmacy subject them to. We think it would be more in keeping for the grocery

trade to let all these things "severely alone" and give its attention to those articles which are in their line and of which they at least have some knowledge.

### Trade Protection.

THE steadily increasing encroachments on the business of the drug trade are making themselves felt very materially in some places, and although this subject has been time and again dwelt on in the trade journals and remedies suggested looking towards its counteraction, at least in a measure, the evil grows, and the trade should see to it, that not only of them selves but through those whose duty it is to watch their interests, that every possible safe guard be placed around the business and especially any infringement of the Pharmacy Acts now in force in nearly all the Provinces should be promptly dealt with. Now that the new Council of the Ontario College is chosen it should be one of its first duties to give that protection to those now in business which is due them, not only in the strict enactment of the Pharmacy Act, as it relates to those outside of the drug business, but also to those who are illegally conducting business, either through neglect to pay annual fees, the management of stores without qualified assistants or the assumption of title of chemist or druggist by those who have no right to it. A very large proportion of the Council's time during its last two years has been given to the "coming generation" of druggists. Now let us have something for those who have given them a lease of power and who are deserving of every consideration at their hands.

### Prescription Ownership.

BY JOSEPH W. ENGLAND, PH. C.  
Read before the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy.

A prescription may be defined as a general order drawn upon any pharmacist for certain specified drugs, in certain specified quantities, to be prepared by recognized methods of pharmaceutical procedure. It is issued as an official order to obtain certain remedies necessary to carry out a quasi contract, i. e., - the relieving or curing of a patient of a bodily ailment. Such an order is legally issued only by authorized officials or physicians, who have qualified themselves for such work, by becoming graduates in medicine and registrars of a State Medical Board.

A patient consulting a physician receives for a consideration what? A medical examination and medical directions, one of which latter is the taking of certain drugs properly prepared. The patient is not competent to do this any more than he is to prescribe for himself, so the physician gives him an official order or prescription upon the pharmacist.

A prescription having been received by the pharmacist, he marks it with certain marks of identity, such as the number, date and year, and labels it, when compounded, with similar markings, together with the directions and the physician's name, for the purpose of future identification.

This official order differs in no wise from any other official order. Universal custom, that great mother of human laws, requires that it be retained by the party upon whom it is drawn, as prima facie evidence of its execution.

A claim that a prescription is a formula, and, as such, property for which the patient has given due compensation is untenable, for the reason that they are not identical. A formula, in the accepted meaning of the term, is a recipe of a product yielding constant, uniform results on being used. A prescription is an experimental recipe, which may or may not yield the desired results, even in the hands of a physician, and whose use by unskilled hands is fraught with the gravest possibilities. Medicine is not yet an exact science, any more than human beings are exact structures. A prescription is but a part of the medical treatment and not the whole of it, and the treatment of every sick person must of necessity vary with the personal idiosyncracies of each case.

To whom, then, does the prescription legally belong? To the physician? Certainly not. He has been paid for all services rendered. To the patient? No; for in his recovery to health he has received all that he paid his medical adviser for. To the pharmacist? Yes, by every right of custom and law, provided he has accepted it under certain conditions. If the patient makes a request for its return on presenting it, the pharmacist has one of two lines of action before him. He must either refuse to compound it under such conditions, or, express a willingness to compound it and give a duplicate copy. If the latter proposal be refused, he should return the original prescription without compounding. On the other hand, if the