

ral factories in London and the large cities of England. This year's balance sheet shows a profit of £5,943, which will allow of a dividend of 10 per cent., and a bonus of 2½ per cent. being declared. The mineral waters, etc., made, are sold only to members, so that they practically have control of the sale of this brand, thus preventing cutting, getting full prices and a dividend of over 10 per cent. per annum on their shares. There is no reason why the same principle could not be carried out on other lines of goods sold by pharmacists.

It is a satisfaction to chronicle the failure of a brace of those excrescences on society, the whiskey informers. A couple of these gentry drew a blank at the police court, Toronto, a few days ago. They had laid information against a few of the city druggists for violation of the License Law. All the cases were dismissed. It does seem to an honest man that there should be some means of enforcing the law without the services of such cattle. A law must be well observed when the officers require to employ jail-birds, ex-convicts and ticket-of-leave men in general, who have no compunctions of conscience in stooping to perjury, even to convict a fellow man. The system of offering half the price to the informers is a vicious one, and encourages a species of blackmail.

Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson died in London on Nov. 21. Dr. Richardson is known, principally, for his writings on sanitation and the effects of alcohol on the human system. He was the founder of the London Temperance Hospital, in which his peculiar ideas with regard to alcohol were carried out, in that it was never used as a menstruum for the preparation of any of his prescriptions, a mixture of acetic acid, glycerine and water being used instead. He introduced methylene bichloride as an anæsthetic, sodium ethylate, and was the first to draw attention to the properties of amyl nitrite.

No doubt the Ontario Society of Retail Druggists will follow the advice of their disinterested friend (?) from Montreal, and hasten to gather again and "elect a president." The present occupant of that position knows too much of that gentleman's past business relations as supply house for the departmental store which first went into the drug business, and which to-day is doing so much to ruin the profession. It might add greatly to the friend's peace of mind to have a president not so conversant with all the facts, and one who would just place his name on the "friendly list" for the asking.

Shares in "Bovril," which was purchased by Mr. Hooley, will shortly be put upon the market,

and will no doubt be eagerly bought up by the English investor, who always has his eye open for a good thing. £2,500,000 is the proposed capital, divided up into 5½ per cent. preference shares, 7 per cent. ordinary, and 4½ per cent. deferred shares. According to the prospectus, the profits in 1895 were £57,605; in 1896, £88,789, and it is estimated that this year's profits will be £150,000, and under the new management, with increased capital, it is believed that this will be greatly augmented.

The liquor men of Ontario don't want much. The earth and a slice off one of the fixed stars would perhaps satisfy them. A deputation from their association, headed by their solicitor, interviewed the Local Government and proposed a dozen or more amendments to the License Act, all in the line of giving more latitude and liberty in dispensing their seductive compounds. Among other modest requests they asked that druggists be prohibited from selling liquor at all times, or in any quantities, except for dispensing purposes.

The secretary of the P. A. T. A., the English counterpart of our O. S. R. D., is still keeping at it enthusing English pharmacists into joining; many of them have done so, but many still remain out. The manufacturers and wholesale druggists generally stand by the retailers, and it is hoped that the cutters will either be driven out of business, or do, as several of them have done, sign the agreement not to cut.

According to the *Chemist and Druggist*, the recent rise in the price of podophyllin is due to the demand from South Africa, where it is being used as a remedy for the rinderpest which is devastating the Transvaal, Matabeleland and Cape Colony. President Kruger has sent out a proclamation with regard to the disease, in which teaspoon doses of podophyllin are recommended as a remedy.

Will some one please hold the *Montreal Journal* up while it recovers its breath. Such supreme efforts as that indulged in last month will surely produce a stroke of apoplexy or something more disastrous! Better stick to the paste pot and scissors, brother. Not half so exhausting on brain power.

It was announced at the annual meeting of the General Medical Council that about three-quarters of the work on the new British Pharmacopœia has been completed and that the work will probably be ready for distribution by the end of 1897.