

PATENT MEDICINES.

It has been felt for some time that a greater degree of supervision should be had over patent medicines than has pertained in the past. Hitherto these medicines have been looked after in several departments. It is now the intention to have one department for their oversight. This will enable those in charge of the new department to exercise much greater care and to investigate their contents with greater thoroughness.

Many of these preparations contain large amounts of alcohol and drugs that must be regarded as dangerous. In future a much stricter registration will be enforced. All preparations in future must be registered, and not one preparation by a manufacturer who may place a number on the market.

In case of preparations containing dangerous drugs, the contents have to be registered; but in the case of other patient medicines little supervision was exercised. But there are many instances of preparations that do not contain dangerous drugs in the meaning of the Act, and yet in large doses might be injurious. The new regulations will bring all these preparations under much closer observation.

The Dominion analyst will have ample authority to examine any preparation, and place upon its sale such conditions as may be deemed wise. All this must do good. This country has been exploited for many years in the interest of those who claimed to have wonderful cures for incurable diseases. All this fraudulent setting forth of claims should be made to cease.

ALCOHOL AND LONGEVITY.

Mr. Arthur Hunter, a well-known American actuary, has tabulated the experience of forty-three companies, covering 2,000,000 lives, on the effects of the consumption of alcohol. His findings are of very great value. In this investigation alcohol proves to be a frequent cause of death.

One group contains those who at some time in the past had drunk to excess, but who at the time of taking out their policies were of steady habits. This group yielded 289 deaths, whereas the expected should have been only 190. This gives an excess mortality of over 50 per cent. This was equal to an average reduction of four years on the lives of these policyholders.

Among those engaged in the various occupations calling for the making or selling of alcoholic liquors the mortality was markedly above the normal, in some instances as high as 70 per cent. extra.