

# CANADIAN DRUGGIST.

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

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## CANADIAN DRUGGIST.

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### The Coming Convention.

THE recent issue of a circular to the druggists of the Province, by a committee appointed by the council, calling a convention of the various District Associations, to be held in Toronto at the time of the council meeting in August next, is a step in a direction likely to produce very gratifying results if, as the circular intimates, it is probable a Provincial Pharmaceutical Association will be formed.

It will readily be conceded that the various Associations by collective discussions and resolutions have brought about individual benefit to their members, and have been of very great assistance to the Council of the College by advising their representatives of the needs they felt to be most pressing. The combined effort thus far put forth in this manner has resulted in the procuring of legislation, the securing of affiliation with the University, the addition to the College building of laboratories such as place it on a plane with the best of any country, the introduction of a College staff eminently qualified to give thorough theoretical and practical instruction in every domain of the pharmacist's art, the lengthening of the term of apprenticeship and College course, and the harmonizing of the entire trade to such an extent that a convention, called by the Council as representatives of the various Associations, is likely to be so successful as to bring to a fitting finale the accomplishments of that body, as above enumerated.

The organizing of a Provincial Association cannot be accomplished without some labor, and the committee having the mat-

ter in charge have wisely, we think, distributed the preliminary part of it to the executive officers of the Associations now in existence. The reports thus sent to the Registrar will enable the committee to arrange a suitable programme and will undoubtedly form the basis of the action taken by the convention, as such reports will be accepted as the deliberative desires of the districts thus represented.

That the formation of a Provincial Pharmaceutical Association, as a head to the various district associations, can accomplish results far more reaching in their benefits than can any local association is clearly apparent. The combined power and influence of all these bodies merged in one for the accomplishment of special purposes, such as securing amendments to the Pharmacy Act which will meet the requirements of all parts of the Province, and the treatment of trade questions, by united action in such a manner as will make them subservient to our benefit, is bound to succeed on account of the widespread and organized influence which it exerts. If the business of the pharmacist is going to attain to the standing which the professional training required to conduct it is entitled to, it will have to be by such concerted and uniform method of business conduct as will establish in the public mind the fact that druggists are not mere business tools subject to every caprice of trade method adopted by other tradesmen, who may seek to encroach on the legitimate domain of the drug trade. Unity of action is the druggists' hope. We are not engaged in business as business competitors of one another. Our trade is a restricted one, subject only to demand, being but slightly affected by the luxurious desires of a variable public. Cutting in business to compete against an outsider will of course limit the sale of the outsider, but, as they are necessarily few in number, and are not at all dependent on the sale of such articles other than for the benefit secured from the advertisement thus gained, the druggist is bound to be the final loser, as a cut on the other means a cut upon one another, indirectly, of course, but none the less injurious from a financial point of view on that account. Under present trade circumstances the time of calling the convention is very opportune, the necessity of a large attendance and thorough representation of each division cannot be too firmly impressed on each Provincial druggist, and the time for preparation is now so limited that prompt

and energetic action is absolutely necessary on the part of those upon whom the success of the meeting will so largely depend.

As the circular indicates, certain persons from each district or divisional Association, are expected to attend, but all are welcome as they. We advise every druggist who can possibly do so to come to come prepared to speak and to act, and to be a charter member, as it were, of an organization which will be expected to defend our individual business interests, to assist the Council in securing such legislative measures as will be mutually desirable, and to endeavor to bring about reciprocal relations between the druggists of each Province, which will conduce to a confederation, such as will raise the standing of the drug trade to a uniform level in this portion of her Majesty's dominions.

### Chloroform.

The questions which have recently been raised as to the relative purity of different kinds of chloroform and their applicability for anesthetic purposes have received considerable attention in Germany. At a meeting of the Berlin Pharmaceutical Society last February the subject was dealt with by Drs. Schacht and Biltz (see *The Month*, li., 691). Since that time a monograph has been published by Dr. Biltz in which he reviews the work that has been done to add to the knowledge of chloroform since the time it was first employed for producing anesthesia. Dr. Biltz attaches great importance to the decomposition effected in chloroform by the influence of light, as being one of the chief circumstances which contribute to make chloroform dangerous, and we take from a German contemporary a summary of his remarks on this part of the subject. It may here be mentioned that while the German Atztribuch orders chloroform to be kept protected from light there is no direction to that effect in the British Pharmacopoeia.

Dr. Biltz regards it as an established fact that the decomposition to which chloroform is liable does not result from the presence of certain impurities as has been assumed, but that it is a natural characteristic of chloroform. Consequently whatever may be the source from which chloroform is obtained, by whatever method it is prepared, and however perfectly it is purified, it is in all cases equally in