

Canadian Druggist

WILLIAM J. DYAS, Editor and Publisher.

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THE *India Rubber and Gutta-Percha Journal* is authority for the statement that a member of the firm of Messrs. A. & F. Pears, together with an associate inventor, have been successful in manufacturing a perfectly fireproof celluloid from spent fibres from paper mills, which they are proposing to manufacture on a large scale.

THE manufacturers of the new antipyretic and analgesic called "Antitoxin" have announced their determination to take proceedings to prevent the use of this word, except as applied to their product. They claim that the name, as used to designate the diphtheria serum, is an infringement of their trade mark, which was registered some years ago.

THE graduating class of the Ontario College of Pharmacy are to be congratulated on the unqualified success which attended their dinner, held on the evening of March 1st. The menu was good, the speeches witty and enjoyable, and the management excellent. Chairman Brown and the other members of the committee who had the affair in charge showed what the "red, yellow, and black" can do in providing an enjoyable evening. The O.C.P. is always ahead.

Death of Mr. S. M. Burroughs.

Silas Mainville Burroughs, of the firm of Burroughs, Wellcome & Co., Snow Hill, London, England, died at Monte Carlo, whence he had gone but a short time previously for his health, on February 6th.

Mr. Burroughs was an American by birth, having been born in Medina, N.Y., December 24th, 1846, and began his pharmaceutical career in Lockport, N.Y., afterwards entering the house of John Wyeth & Brother, Philadelphia. In 1880 the firm of Burroughs, Wellcome & Co. was formed, and the success of the business then established has been almost phenomenal.

In social, business, and religious circles Mr. Burroughs was a prominent figure, and made hosts of friends by his urbanity of manner, generous disposition, and a distinct personality, which impressed all who came in contact with him. He was

a liberal contributor to the Pharmaceutical Society's Benevolent Fund, donated £1,000 to the Dartford Cottage Hospital, and helped to support a number of charitable and religious institutes in his native town. Mr. Burroughs leaves a widow and three small children.

Justice to a Manufacturing House.

There appeared in the *Toronto World* of February 22nd a statement that Parke, Davis & Co., of Walkerville, Ontario, were seeking to introduce low-grade alcohol into their Canadian laboratory for the manufacture of patent medicines, and in the issue of the same paper of February 26th an anonymous letter appeared, alleging that the low-grade alcohol was desired "for the manufacture of pharmaceutical preparations intended to be used for the making up of prescriptions." That a very great wrong had been done this firm in the publication of such false statements every one will admit, and the complete retraction of the charges and insinuations by the *World* in its issue of March 2nd was but an act of justice towards the firm.

Parke, Davis & Co. indignantly deny that their petition to the excise authorities had any bearing whatever on low-grade alcohol. What they wanted was simply permission to introduce pure, standard, rectified spirit in bond for the manufacture of pharmaceuticals designed for export on a large scale to foreign countries. Such standard spirit can be imported in bond at the price of 25 cents per imperial gallon. At present Parke, Davis & Co. are greatly hampered by the high market price of alcohol in the Dominion—\$1.17 per imperial gallon in bond, and to this must be added the excise duty of \$1.50 proof gallon! Their proposition to the excise authorities was cheerfully complied with; will reduce substantially the cost of producing goods for export; will enable them to compete with European manufacturers in the markets of the world outside the Dominion; and will not involve the slightest sacrifice of quality or potency in the finished preparations.

They also strenuously aver that no low-grade alcohol has ever entered into any preparation of their manufacture, and their petition had no bearing on any save the pure, standard, rectified spirit.

Practically, there is no such thing on the market as "low-grade alcohol," unless

this term be applied to dilute alcohol. Inasmuch as every manufacturer is perfectly free to purchase pure spirit (94 per cent.) and dilute it in accordance with the needs of the product manufactured (some preparations require strong alcohol as a solvent, and others require dilute spirit), it would be absurd to talk of low-grade alcohol in this connection. The only other form of "low-grade alcohol" is a certain crude product supplied exclusively to establishments manufacturing vinegar under bond. The well-known "wood alcohol" could not possibly be used in the manufacture of pharmaceuticals, owing to its obnoxious odor.

The charge made that Parke, Davis & Co. desire to employ a low-grade spirit for the manufacture of patent medicines was another gratuitous misstatement. This house has, we understand, no proprietary interest in any patent medicine, nor does it advertise or sell any of its products to the public. It confines its operations entirely to the medical profession, which it reaches through the usual channels of the wholesale drug trade and retail pharmacists.

The reputation of this house throughout Canada is such that no druggist, we believe, would give credence to any such charges; and we feel it a duty towards one of our most enterprising and reliable manufacturing concerns to give the facts as they actually are.

The Ownership of the Prescription.

The question as to whom a prescription really belongs, when it has been made up by a pharmacist, has frequently been raised in connection with French pharmacy. No special rule has been laid down with regard to it, and, consequently, pharmacists have been in the habit of keeping the recipes or not, as they think fit. M. Bogelet, the lawyer of the General Association of French Pharmacists, has expressed the opinion that a general system should be adopted for pharmacists to retain, for the purpose of personal guarantee, all prescriptions containing either active poisons or those that are dangerous. They should, however, undertake to deliver proper copies, bearing the address of the pharmacy, to patients. Article 15 of the proposed new law touches the question slightly by saying: "If pharmacists retain a medical prescription, they ought to deliver an exact copy, if this is asked for."—*Chemist and Druggist*.