Pharmacy in England.

Aq. Sambruci Trip.—Erythrol Tetranitrate Microscopes for Canada Progress of the English P.A.T.A.—A Rich Norwegian Mine Photographic Mounts.

(From our own Correspondent)

Elder Flower water is one of those old-fashioned preparations that seem to be slowly dying out, its reputation as a vehicle for eye lotions having already waned. A great part of that used in pharmacy is imported from the south of France, together with rose water and orange flower water. But the Anti-fermentive Company—a company formed to run a preparation similar to salicylic acid and recommended for preserving jam, meat, etc.—of London, Eng., have taken up the distillation of elder flower water from English flowers, and have certainly obtained a superior product. One of their representatives informs me that a good deal of sophisticated elder flower water comes from the Continent, and is merely a "faked" product of orange flower water, with a trace of citronella. Some time ago, Messrs. Bush & Co. showed me a little phial containing the otto or essential oil of elder flower, which they valued at a good deal higher price than otto de rose; in fact, about $25 per oz. In order to obtain their supply of elder flower water all the year round, many firms preserve a sufficiency for their need by mixing the flowers when fresh with salt. It can then be distilled as required, but the product is not so fine as if it be distilled at the proper time.

The sad death of one of Burroughs, Wellcome & Co.'s assistants through an explosion, caused by pounding erythrol tetranitrate in a mortar, has attracted attention to this chemical. It is closely related to nitro-glycerin chemically, erythrol being a tetrahydric alcohol, winest glycerin is, of course, a trihydric alcohol. In the evidence, the firm's chemist clearly laid the whole blame on the deceased assistant, and the suggestion was made that he had no business to be compounding it in the method indicated. In dealing with these decomposable, but not necessarily explosive, bodies, care and common sense must be exercised. For instance, picric acid can be safely handled in solution or gently pulverized by itself, but with certain combinations it forms salts that are quite liable to explode by percussion.

An instance of the revival in Canadian trade was given me last week by a firm of microscope and camera makers. They had just shipped fifty microscopes and a number of their special cameras to Canada. In philosophical instruments as well as cameras, English manufacturers claim that they can easily compete, both in quality and price, with the United States. Moreover, nearly all the more recent improvements have been made in England, although it must be admitted that in cheapness of lenses the French beat us. The principal plate and paper manufacturers formed an association early in the year, with the object of maintaining retail prices. This has given the foreign manufacturer an opportunity of placing his wares on the English market, but they are not by any means liked. Most amateurs, after trying one or two of the principal makes, settle down to the one they like best and will try no other. There can be no doubt that the reduced price of silver has enabled manufacturers to pocket handsome profits during the year, as it is an important item in the cost of manufacturing both plates and prints.

The progress of the Proprietary Articles Trade Association in England in fighting the cutting problem has been slow, but eminently satisfactory. It has been proved over and over again that local arrangements will never meet the case, and mere pious expressions of disapproval at extreme cutting will avail nothing. The drug stores are only too glad of patent and proprietary medicines as stalking horses or advertisements. These goods afford them the opportunity of stating usual price so-and-so, our price, something very much lower. It should not be forgotten, however, that even if all these proprietaries were on the protected list of the association, the tactics of the cutter would be unaltered. He would still take lines like chemical food or Epsom salt and quote absurd prices. But this form of competition could be more easily met, and the public is not so anxious to buy wholesale quantities even if they are cheap. The pity of it is that an association formed for the sole object of ameliorating one of the most objectionable phases of modern business has not secured unanimous support. Many of the leading members in the trade, who have all along been securing full prices, prefer to sneer at the partial adhesion of manufacturers. As if the most potent argument that could possibly appeal to the manufacturers would not be the unanimity of the trade upon the subject. If the retailer requires no salvation, why should the manufacturer stir to secure it for him.

I have just received an interesting document from an enterprising Norwegian, who having heard of the interest caused by the discovery of helium, and being the happy possessor of a mine containing cleveite, is apparently under the impression that it is a useful commodity to druggists. The following is abstracted from the circular of Herr Maurite Karlevold, of Sundnes, Norway. "In the mountains of Norway are often found the rarest minerals in the world, such as contain helium, thorium, lanthan, yttrium, zirconium, vanadin, didym, galium, etc. From a rich mine in Vass, Rytylke, is sold

Cleveite (containing helium)	$7 20	per kilo
Uranium ore (5 to 50 p.c. oxide)	0.01	"
Mixture (containing yttrium, etc.)	2 80	"
Somarskeite, auzenette	2 40	"
Ytterspath, monazette	2.40	"

Professor Ramsay permits the undersigned, Mr. M. Karlevold to state that his cleveite yields from 1.5 to 2 cub cents per gram of helium. *Nature*, London, 11th March, 1897 writes that "his cleveite is estimated to be very rich in helium.'

Melting and Assay Offices and Ore Floors, London, writes on the 11th November. "One box of uranium ore, net dry weight, 3 qrs. 25 lbs. Containing 42 per cent. of yellow oxide of uranium"

It deserves the special notice of laboratories and chemical factories with large consumption that theoretic and practical miners consider the mine above named and recently discovered the richest in Norway, nay in the world, as to uranium ore and still rarer helium.

I am myself discoverer and owner of the mine, and I am willing to give a liberal discount in proportion to quantities consumed." There is an air of enterprise about this circular that makes one almost regret that the discoverer of helium was not able to vaunt it as a remedy for consumption or something else. It would mean a small fortune to my Norwegian friend. As it is, I am afraid the demand for helium or even cleveite will never be large, and the discoverer and owner of the richest mine in Norway will not be inundated with orders in spite of the endorsement of "theoretic" and practical miners.

At this time of the year the amateur