

Correspondence.

An Apprentice's View.

Editor CANADIAN DRUGGIST:

SIR,—I have noticed of late much discussion concerning the qualification of druggists' apprentices. Many advocate a higher standard of matriculation to the College of Pharmacy; but I think that would be useless. It points towards selfishness in those who think of it, and is a true evidence of a cramped, but narrow, mind. They say it would keep many from entering the calling of a pharmacist; but is that an unselfish idea?

We want more good chemists and druggists, more practically trained and reasonably educated men and women to become pharmacists. In place of raising the examination for an apprentice, I would say, make the apprenticeship a term of seven years instead of four; further, those years should be spent with a licensed druggist who had passed his examination under the new Pharmacy Act, and not with one who had never seen or attended a College of Pharmacy. Then there should be a two-year college course; one course at the end of four years' experience, and the other at the end of seven. The course should not include much more than what is now gone over, but the college work should be more thoroughly dealt with, that the students might better understand its importance and more thoroughly mentally digest it.

This would make a nine years' course; it seems long, but there is a great future for the hard-working and willing pharmacist, and here I ask, Is there a person who can gain more than a necessary knowledge of the drug business and its branches in less than nine or ten years?

More Latin is not necessary for a druggist, but anatomy, physiology, and therapeutics, in their highest, should be taught in our college, for the time is coming when druggists will do all the prescribing, and the doctor only diagnose the case.

I have not expressed my ideas in eloquent language, but I think my meaning is clear, and I should be glad to know what others think on the subject of education for the druggist.

AN APPRENTICE.

Toronto, May 13, 1895.

Editor CANADIAN DRUGGIST:

I have read the remarks of both our drug journals regarding the recent pharmacy amendment of 1895. As it stands substantially as I recommended it to the Government, I judge it just to all concerned, workable in the public interest, the best that can be secured at present, and in advance of our previous legislation on the subject. Parliament and others helping to make it law approved of it. Some may object to having any poisonous patent or proprietary medicine put on the poison list through the board of health, but the board of health practically stands

between the Government and any opposing public on questions affecting public health, and there has been a strong objection to such being put on said list by way of pharmacy authority alone.

I should have wished to have seen the words "patent or proprietary medicine" defined to include all such patent or proprietary medicines as are included in wholesale or retail lists of such, as some have an idea from the wording of the Act, "rendering its use in the doses prescribed dangerous to health or life," that they apply to medicine for man's use on himself. In my recommendation I mentioned Rough on Rats, said to consist largely of arsenic, and Recamier's Tan and Freckle Lotion, said to contain corrosive sublimate. Both can be used as poisons, it is believed, and any one selling arsenic or corrosive sublimate, whether patented, trade-marked, or proprietary, should register them poison, that poisoning may be traced for the public good. As I have been nominated for election for member of the Pharmaceutical Council for Brant, Haldimand, and Waterloo, if elected, I shall endeavor to unite physicians, boards of health, with whom I have been connected many years, and the general public, to get the full benefit of the late Act for the good of the long-suffering druggist and the public.

ROBERT HARBOTTLE,

M.A., M.B., M.H.O., etc.

Burford, Ont., May 30, 1895.

Answers to Correspondents.

A CORRESPONDENT, Palmerston, Ont.—The prescription you send cannot be dispensed so as to prevent separation, the liq. ammonia not being miscible.

CLERK, Montreal.—Advertisements under the heading "Situations Wanted" are inserted *once* free of charge.

MEDICUS, Hamilton, Ont.—Write J. T. Lewis, Registrar Ontario College of Pharmacy, who can give you any information you desire in the matter.

SUBSCRIBER, Manitoba.—No, unless the name is signed.

Acknowledgments.

Semi-Annual Report of Schimmel & Co., Leipzig, April, 1895.

A "Wants Book," convenient in size and well gotten up. J. Wiener & Co., Hamilton, Ont., will be pleased to present their patrons with copies.

Medicine, a new medical monthly, edited by Harold N. Moyer, M.D., No. 1, Vol. 1. Contains a number of valuable original articles by prominent physicians. George S. Davis, Publisher, Detroit, Mich. \$2 per annum.

Aseptic Prophylaxis of Asiatic Cholera: Arsenization, by Reginald Barkley Leach, M.D., Paris, Texas, member American Health Association, etc., etc. A mono-

graph on arsenization as the only scientific, as well as the only aseptic, measure against epidemic cholera.

We are in receipt of a new illustrated price list from the Seely Manufacturing Co., Windsor, Ont., and Detroit, Mich. A number of their leading styles of perfumes and toilet goods are shown. Amongst others their new perfumes, "White Star," "Ogarita," "Marposa Lily," "Lillian Russell," etc., also their Transparent Glycerine Jelly, Almond Milk Complexion Soap, Odontine and other toilet requisites. The catalogue is an exceedingly handsome one, and in keeping with the handsome styles in which their goods are put up.

ACID-PROOF CEMENT.

A cement, which is said to form a satisfactory coating to vessels intended to contain strong sulphuric or nitric acid, can be prepared, according to a French technical journal, by mixing powdered asbestos, 2 parts, with barium sulphate, 1 part, and sodium silicate (50° B.), 2 parts. For weaker acids silicate of 130° B. may be employed, whilst a mixture of asbestos, 1 part, sand, 1 part, and sodium silicate, 2 parts, is said to be preferable for warm nitric acid.

LIQUID GLUE.

The *Bottler's Gazette* says: With any desired quantity of glue, use ordinary whiskey instead of water. Break the glue in small fragments and introduce these in a suitable glass vessel and pour the whiskey over them. Cork tightly and set aside for three or four days, when it will be ready for use, without the necessity of applying heat. Thus prepared, the mixture will keep unaltered for years, and will remain perfectly liquid, except in very cold weather, when it will be found necessary to place the bottle in warm water for a little time before using. The vessel in which it is kept must, of course, be kept always tightly corked to prevent the volatilizing of the solvent.—*National Druggist*.

POTASSIUM PERMANGANATE AS A STAIN REMOVER.—*Helbig* says (*Phar. Zeit.*) that vegetable blues, as well as other vegetable and aniline stains, may be removed from white wash goods, if they have resisted other treatment, by treating with strong solution of potassium permanganate followed by a 5 per cent. solution of sulphurous acid.

Vegetable and animal fats in petroleum may be detected (*L'Union Phar.*) by triturating with concentrated potassium permanganate solution. The latter should not be decomposed.

Thompson's eau des cirassiennes consists of 30 grams of zinc oxide rubbed up with 200 grams of perfumed water.