

establishments. The practical conclusion that the correspondent draws from it all is for the Parisian *vineur* to take the pledge and subscribe for a temperance newspaper. What interests us most, however, as physicians, is the fact that even in the very place where one would expect to find the pure article, spurious imitations of it are sold across the counter to persons who are supposed to be connoisseurs. If such is the case there, what must the state of things be here! It is many years now since we were first told that the amount of wines and brandies of the first quality produced in France was not one fifth of the quantity required for home consumption. The conclusion to be naturally drawn from this is that the practice of adulteration is the rule and not the exception. Whether we are justified in prescribing alcoholic stimulants imported from France for our patients, is a question, in the face of what is known about them, which might be profitably discussed by the profession. Brandy is a very fashionable stimulant, and probably oftener prescribed in cases where alcohol is indicated than any other, and it is the very one which is most likely to be adulterated. Would it not be better, in those conditions which require stimulants, to use our own domestic whiskeys, which are readily obtained pure and comparatively cheap? The so-called "cognac oil" and "brandy essences" are now being advertised in this country, and mercenary inducements are held out to liquor dealers to enable them to purchase. The following recipe for making cognac brandy, "equal to any imported," may be given as a sample. It is taken from a pamphlet issued by a Montreal house, and entitled "Advice to Liquor Merchants."

20 gal. French spirits (high wine),	
at \$3.65	\$73 00
16 gal. water	0 00
2 oz. essence (per lb. \$12)	1 50
½ lb. glycerine	0 30
Coloring	0 10

Thirty six gallons for \$74.90, at about \$2.08 per gallon. It is further stated that "parties wishing to imitate any particular flavour or brand not stipulated in our catalogue will please inform us of the name of such brand or send us a small sample." A little light is thrown upon the manner in which the European exporters manipulate their goods by

a quotation which I have made from another part of the pamphlet. "Liquors prepared with our essences and oils will mix with the foreign in most economical proportions. The vine growers of Europe make use of compound essences and oils to convert spirits imported from Canada in large quantities with liquors of superior taste and flavour, and re-ship them to this country." Statements such as the one just made ought to make one suspicious of nearly every brand of imported goods, unless indeed the best proof to the contrary is produced. If it were a mere question of alcohol as a beverage, while it would be grave enough, it would be of minor importance as compared with the fact that in disease we administer often in crises large quantities of stimulants which, if impure, are so many draughts of poison, and overwhelm the system instead of supporting it! But a word to the wise, etc. With the knowledge that such a condition of things exists will come an effort on the part of the physicians of this country to counteract the influences which militate against us in our struggles with disease. We have difficult work as it is; let us see that the weapons we use are trustworthy.

Ontario Medical Journal

Contributions of various descriptions are invited. We shall be glad to receive from our friends everywhere current medical news of general interest. Secretaries of County or Territorial Medical Associations will oblige by forwarding reports of the proceedings of their Associations.

TORONTO, APRIL, 1893.

RESOLUTIONS OF CONFIDENCE IN THE MEDICAL COUNCIL.

The resolutions following, of confidence in the Medical Council and expressing disapprobation of legislative changes effecting its constitution unless sought for by the representatives of the profession, will be read with interest. Guelph medical men evidently are not afraid to speak their minds even though plain language be necessary. Their Association, in its resolution, used forcible words, and the opinion expressed regarding the conduct of the