the matter of awarding marks, we have also made some alteration, so that henceforth a correct answer will be indicated by five marks, instead of ten, while those answers which, from the care bestowed upon them, or completeness of detail, appear of greater value than others, will be awarded extra marks.

By referring to the minutes of last meeting, it will be seen that the Society allowed one dollar and a half, monthly, to be expended in purchasing books to be presented to the student having the greatest number of marks. It was also proposed that a semi-annual prize of ten dollars, in books, be offered for the best answer during six months. This was not carried, on account of the jurisdiction of the officers of the Society not extending over a period of six months from the present time. But we have no doubt that the new Council, who will come into power in July next, will approve of the proposal, and make the necessary grant.

In another part of the JOURNAL will be found a list of those works from which the successful candidate may select the book he desires, and which we will mail to him on learning his choice.

EDITORIAL SUMMARY.

Iron Vessels for Containing Sulphuric Acid.

A recent patent has been obtained in England for the application of iron vessels for the conveyance of oil of vitriol. This plan will be likely to come into immediate use, as the well known risk of breakage of glass carboys will be avoided, and for conveying the acid in large quantities, as for manufactory purposes, the cost of the vessel will be undoubtedly less. All mineral acids, like sulphuric or nitric acid, attack iron readily, but only in the presence of water. Fuming nitric and concentrated sulphuric acid are without perceptible action on it, for which reason it can be substituted as a cheaper and safer material than glass for transportation. Three conditions are necessary to be complied with: the acid must be so strong as to have a specific gravity of 1.65 ; the access of air must be prohibited, and the acid must not contain impurities that dissolve iron.

Beneficial Action of Tobacco Smoke.

We must confess to feeling a certain satisfaction in reading anything favorable to the weed. It is a drop of balm to the troubled conscience, and its value is the more enhanced from the rarity of its occurrence. We have shuddered when Dr. Vogel informed us that tobacco smoke was strongly charged with hydrocyanic acid; and, in common with half a world of fellow-mortals, who were enduring the agony of slow poison, we have rejoiced over the triumphant and well substantiated assertion of MM. Poggiale and Martius, that the worthy doctor's statements were based on smoke, and that the products of the combusion of tobacco were as innocent of the cyanide of hydrogen as the atmosphere at the summit of Mount Blanc. We have now to learn the smoker's trub mission, and in turning to the report of the lectures on Fermentation, recently delivered before the Society of Arts, London, by Dr. Williamson, we find tobacco smoke figuring as an antiseptic of the first order. Indeed, in point of efficiency, the smoker may be ranked with carbolic acid, or Dr. Gamgee's chloralum. "It has been shown" says Professor Williamson, "by the experiments of Professor Tyndall, that in the lower vessels of the lungs there are considerable deposits of the dust which floats about in the air; and we are, of course, exposed in that manner to the action of a number of the seeds of these ferments, and, and for aught we know, of diseases, because many malignant diseases are attributed to processes of decomposition analogous to those which we have been considering, and they may be—and, as some persons think, are—carried by germs in the air, in the same way as those I have been mentioning. Now, any powerful substance which would kill these germs must, of course, exert a beneficial action, and when persons are exposed to the smoke of tobacco, there is no doubt that some of it enters the lungs with the air which is vitiated, and that some of the smoke must be deposited in the lower passages of the lungs with these little mischevious germs, and must certainly somewhat astonish them.

Dinner of the Pharmaceutical Association of the Province of Quebec.

An obliging correspondent sends us the following account of a dinner given by the friends of Pharmaceutical Education, in celebration of the incorporation of the above association. We judge that our eastern friends must be enjoying a more than usual share of prosperity, in regard to their efforts in the direction of pharmaceutical organization, as, above all things, a dinner may be held as one of the surest indications of success. Our Society here has not yet arrived at this pitch of jubilation, although, at the last meeting, we must confess to having heard a remote allusion, made by an over-bold member, in regard to oysters and champagne. If our festive friend meant a supper, we say decidedly, no, we must not be outdone by our eastern friends; let us have a dinner by all means, and champagne if needs be, but an oyster supper—never!

The dinner, writes our correspondent, was held at the "Queen's," St. James St., Montreal, on the 21st of last month. Owing to domestic affliction it was impossible for Mr. Kerry, the President, to take the Chair, which was ably filled in his place by Mr. Mercer, Messrs. Crathern and Harte acting as croupiers. The dinner was a capital specimen of "Isaacs" cookery, and after it had been discussed with due earnestness, the President rose and mentioned with regret the absence of the President. He also mentioned the receipt of several letters of apology from invited guests, among which was one from Sir G. E. Cartier.

The President then in a few appropriate remarks, proposed the Queen; the Royal Family; the Army and Navy and Volunteers, coupling with the latter the names of Dr. Girdwood and Captain Stanley.

Both of these gentlemen returned thanks for the honour thus done them, speaking highly of the value of the Volunteer force, and its necessity for the protection of the Country. Trafalgar and Waterloo, said Captain Stanley, should the occasion ever recur will not be merely things of the past; but things of the present.

The Chairman then proposed the health of our civil servants—the members of the Dominion Local Legislature, remarking upon the extensive character of our country from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Its prosperity depended upon the honesty, ability and energy of the men who represented the country in Parliament. He coupled this toast with that of Mr. Carter, M.P.P., who had shown, he said, great ability in carrying the Pharmaceutical Bill.

Mr. Carter returned thanks, among other remarks, and concluded by alluding to the necessity of giving to the Society the power of regulating the sale of poisons.

The President then proposed the Pharmaceutical Association of the Province of Quebec. He said that Lower Canada, even in advance of Great Britain, had endeavoured to obtain a highly educated class of Chemists. Unfortunately, the effort was made in a false direction, and instead of providing a separate education for Chemists, it made the Chemists a branch of the medical faculty. The curriculum was not suited to the times. He, however, expressed an opinion that before long the ambition of the young men engaged in the profession would place the status of the profession as high as that of any other body in the country. He ended by wishing the success of prescribers and dispensers, but above all of that happiest class, the consumers of drugs.

Dr. B. Edwards returned thanks.

Mr. Crathern proposed the toast of the Medical Profession, for which Drs. Craig and Godfrey, Drake and Campbell, responded.

Mr. Harte proposed the sister associations in Great Britain and on this continent; responded to by Mr. Ambrose, of the Pharmaceutical Association of Great Britain; and a capital Scotch song having been sung by Mr. Manson, Mr. Harte proposed "Our Guests," coupled with the names of Drs. Jenkins and S. Hunt.

Both gentlemen returned thanks, Dr. Jenkins saying that though a clergyman, he was not sufficiently spiritual to be indifferent to being poisoned by ill-instructed doctors and chemists. He therefore desired a high education for medical men and chemists, such as he believed this society would promote.