

CANADIAN PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY.

PRESIDENT, - - - Wm. ELLIOT, Esq.

The regular meetings of the Society take place on the FIRST FRIDAY evening of each month, at the Mechanics' Institute, when, after the transaction of business, there is a paper read, or discussion engaged in, upon subjects of interest and value to the members.

The Society admits as members, Chemists and Druggists of good standing, and their assistants and apprentices, if elected by a majority vote, and on payment of the following fees:

Principals - - - - \$1 00 per Annum
Assistants & Apprentices, 2 00

The JOURNAL is furnished FREE to all members.

Parties wishing to join the Society may send their names for proposal to any of the members of the Society. A copy of the Constitution and By-laws of the Society will be furnished on application.

HENRY J. ROSE, Secretary.

THE CANADIAN
Pharmaceutical Journal.

E. B. SHUTTLEWORTH, EDITOR.

TORONTO, ONT., FEBRUARY, 1870.

Correspondence and general communications, of a character suited to the objects of this JOURNAL, are invited, and will always be welcome. The writer's name should accompany his communication, but not necessarily for publication.

Subscriptions will not be acknowledged by letter, as our sending the paper may be taken as sufficient evidence of the receipt of the money.

All communications connected with the paper to be addressed, post-paid.

"EDITOR CANADIAN PHARMACEUTICAL JOURNAL,
TORONTO."

THE QUEBEC PHARMACY ACT.

We learn with regret that the promoters of the Quebec Pharmacy Act have failed in procuring its passage through the Lower House. We have, as yet, received no official notification of the fact, and have not learned the particulars of the case, any further than that some of the members of the medical profession offered a very determined opposition, and so far succeeded in their efforts, that the druggists declined further action in the matter. The Bill was brought before the house, and a select committee was appointed, but the deliberations of that body—through the pernicious influence of the doctors—only resulted in mutilations which completely destroyed the original intent of the measure.

We are aware that the druggists and doctors of Quebec have long been at logger-heads—how the feud originated, we know not;

but, in any case, it is a pity that the medical profession should be so blinded to their own interests, by any petty feeling whatever, as to fail in seeing the very obvious advantages which they, as well as the druggists, would derive from an enactment such as that proposed. We are pleased to think that in Ontario the matter is regarded in its true light, and that the promoters of the Ontario Pharmacy Act, look upon the Medical profession as its strongest supporters.

Insalubrity of Cast Iron Stoves.

Our readers may remember that some years ago, a series of experiments were made in France, at the instigation of General Morin, by MM. Deville and Trost, to determine whether cast iron stoves, when strongly heated, were permeable by the gases of combustion. These distinguished chemists reported that such was the case, and that carbonic oxide was continually absorbed by the inner surface of the stove, and given off by the outer.

The Boston Medical and Surgical Journal presents the following review from the *Gazette Hebdomadaire*, in which Fonssagrives describes the effects of breathing air rendered impure by carbonic oxide. "He says a new disease prevailing epidemically, attacking by preference sedentary persons, appearing only in winter, undergoing aggravations which coincided with those of the cold weather, characterized symptomatically by prodromata very analogous to those of certain forms of typhoid fever, subsequently cephalalgia, vertigo, oppression, bloody sputa, smallness of the pulse, persistent disturbances of the nervous and digestive functions—this malady was referred by M. Carret to the prolonged inhalation of carbonic oxide gas disengaged by red hot cast-iron. The opinion of the author of this theory was from the first combated by chemical arguments, and M. Regnault and Chevreul, with an authority full of menace for the theory of M. Carret, came forward to deny that cast-iron could disengage enough carbonic oxide to produce the symptoms detailed by this distinguished physician. But subsequent experiments conducted by a commission of the Institute composed of MM. Payen, Morin, Fremy, and H. Sainte Clair Deville, sustained the ideas of M. Carret. They demonstrated at the same time the disengagement of carbonic oxide gas by red-hot stoves, and also the permeability of cast-iron by this gas. Now carbonic oxide—that blood-poison which kills the red globules, or at least renders them unfit for the exchange of the gases on which their revivification depends—has for a long time given proof of its toxic property. Therefore it cannot enter the head of any one that its habitual and daily inhalation during the whole of the cold season of the year, may be a matter of indifference to the health. Hygiene cannot, any more easily than chemistry, underrate the power of slight causes working with prolonged repetition; and she knows wondrously well that the poisonous agents most to be feared are not those which act with dramatic outburst. Besides I cannot, says Fonssagrives,

too often reiterate, that every time I see a result which is attested by scientific proofs, borrow additional probability from common report, I feel confirmed in my belief in its reality. I believe in the insalubrity of cast-iron stoves from having myself been indebted to them for more than one headache. Though M. Carret, he says, in his earnestness has enlarged the list of the misdeeds wrought by carbonic oxide; whether also this gas be alone responsible for the bad effects produced by the mode of heating in question, or they be due in part to the elevation of temperature and the drying of the air, as M. Coutier contends; however these things may be, one fact is indisputable—cast-iron stoves have made those who have used them pay dear for their economical advantage. The open fire place, he adds, with great truth, has hygiene on its side, because it not only supplies a means of heating, but is a permanent and efficient ventilating apparatus.

In recalling this important subject to our attention, it should be borne in mind that the investigations of Dr. George Derby, in this city, tend to show that the drying of the air has had but little to do with the pernicious effects and disagreeable sensations produced by cast iron stoves or furnaces.

Artificially Colored Wines.

According to Dr. Phipson, (*Jour. of Chem. Society*), artificial coloring, of any description, may be detected in wine, by the aid of the spectroscope. The wine placed in a test tube must be diluted to the requisite degree of transparency, and then examined. If an absorption band of any kind appears the wine may be suspected. The pure coloring matter of the grape gives no bands, but a general absorption, increasing gradually towards the violet. The substances commonly used to color wines are the flowers of the purple hollyhocks, *Althea rosea*, *Mulva arborea*, *Rose tremiere*—and the fruit of the elderberry—*Sambucus niger* and *S. ebulus*. Brazil wood, logwood, blackberries, beet root juice, &c., are less commonly employed to color true wine, but the two former substances are nearly always used in the making up of spurious wine; their presence would, therefore, serve as a pretty good indication of the character of the article.

Syrupus Ferri Iodidi.

At a late meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of Britain, two papers were read on this well worn, and we might say, well nigh exhausted subject. The first writer, failing in his endeavours to make a syrup which would remain uncolored, for any length of time, had recourse to citric acid as a preservative, and decolorizer. The acid was used in the proportion of one grain to the ounce; and discolored syrup, to which it had been added, was, after exposure to bright light, perfectly bleached.

The second paper contains the details of a