

the dried substance, is the recommendation of Barclay.

CHEMISTRY.

The discovery of the year, if true, is undoubtedly that made by Lord Rayleigh and Professor Ramsay. They allege the existence of a fifth constituent in the atmosphere, obtained by abstracting water, carbon dioxide, oxygen and nitrogen from air. It occurs with nitrogen, but differs from that body by its greater density.

A useful recommendation of Dott is that specific gravities be taken at 20° C. instead of 15° C. A suggestive paper by Edel on "Pharmaceutical Testing," published in our September issue, should be of great value, as the subject is very important. The purity of chloroform has long engaged attention, and Squibb, Schacht, Biltz, and Brown admit that absolute purity can be obtained, no matter what the source may be—acetone, ketone, or alcohol. The new U.S.P. tests are spoken highly of. Arsenic in glycerin has been reported now and again during the past few years, and should be guarded against. Furfuraldehyde is an excellent test for veratrine, according to Wender. Papers on analytical alkaloidal chemistry have been published by Kebler, and also by Wright and Farr. The tendency is to assist accurate determinations of alkaloidal galenical preparations. Guasti has shown that the isonitrite test for acetanilide in phenacetin is valueless. The following test will detect 0.5 per cent. of acetanilide. One gramme is boiled with 15 c.c. of water, cool and filter. Add bromine water to the filtrate, when if acetanilide be present a turbidity will result. Iodate can be easily detected in iodide of potassium, according to Spica, by precipitation with barium chloride. If the precipitation be barium iodate, it will dissolve in hot concentrated hydrochloric acid, and separate on diluting with water. Mahery reports the examination of Canadian sulphur petroleum, which he found to contain 0.98 per cent. of sulphur. Estimation of HCN in *aqua Laurocerasi* may be improved, reports Denigès, by using potassium iodide as indicator in solutions made strongly alkaline with soda or ammonia. Creosote from beech and oak is identical, and contains phenol, cresols, guaiacol, etc. They also contain a sulphur derivative. Becchi's silver reaction for the detection of cotton-seed oil in lard is not trustworthy. Bevan found that exposure of the lard to the air was sufficient to ensure the silver reaction. The iodine absorption remains the best test.

BOTANY.

Useful contributions to botany have been made by Green, who has examined several ferments. Jamieson has discovered apertures at the tip of root hairs. Berthelot and André have traced the formation of CO₂ and absorption of O by leaves after their removal from plants. Dyer has made exhaustive study of the available mineral plant food in soils. Purjewicz showed that decomposition of organic acids is always taking place in plants, but is favor-

ed by light and heat. Malic acid is most easily decomposed, then oxalic, and next tartaric.

Bacteriology and microscopy deserve special recognition, as their importance grows daily. In the histology of drugs and examination of bacteria, the microscope is becoming an indispensable instrument of research to the pharmacist. We must content ourselves with drawing attention to the numerous notes we have published on the subject during the year, particularly by Dr. Eccles, Dr. Whelpley, and others. Photography is growing in favor every year, and the space devoted to it monthly is sufficient evidence of its importance.

The depression in trade which has existed throughout this continent has, as a matter of course, had its effect upon the drug market.

The volume of business done during 1894 is reported by wholesalers to be, as near as can be ascertained at the time of writing, about the same as in 1893. Although stock has been taken, it yet remains for the books to be balanced to show the proportion of profits. Prices, on the whole, have not varied much, and have, as a rule, favored the buyer.

Prince Edward Island.

Mr. Fred. C. Davies is advertising all his stock, etc., for sale, and contemplates removing to Florida.

Mr. W. W. Macdonald, druggist, of O'Leary, P.E.I., was married on the 25th December, 1894, to Miss Annie E. Ellis, of Alberton, in St. Peter's Church.

Summerside has another—its fourth—drug store, the proprietors of which are respectively Mr. Manson (lately with Dr. Dodd, of Charlottetown, formerly with Mr. Gourlie, of Summerside), and Mr. MacNeill, who, for some years past, has had charge of the Kensington Drug Store. The firm's name is Manson & MacNeill. The business is being carried on in the eastern half of the store lately occupied by Mr. A. C. Rogers.

The *Maritime Grocer* of December 25, 1894, says: Mr. Charles Silver, of Simon Bros. & Co., who has just returned from Charlottetown, tells us that the window display of W. R. Watson's drug store, of that city, is one of the finest he has ever seen. The arrangement of the different Christmas novelties and perfumes is unique, the background of the same being artistically adorned with limbs of young spruce, forming a contrast which is very pleasing to the eye.

A druggist at Cypress, Man., has been fined \$50 and costs on a charge of selling liquor as a beverage.

There is said to be a good opening for a physician at Cartwright, Man. Forty-five families have signed their names to an agreement to pay a doctor \$10 each for the first year. The nearest doctor is now from 16 to 20 miles.

Trade Notes.

Ross & Co. have opened a drug store in Vancouver, B.C.

William Geary has opened a drug store in Vancouver, B.C.

J. D. Warren, druggist, Pembroke, Ont., has made an assignment.

The Sugden Pitt & Drug Co., Winnipeg, Man., has been incorporated.

Chas. Nelson, druggist, Vancouver, has opened a branch at Chilliwack, B.C.

Harry P. Hyatt, Montreal, has registered as the Crescent Chemical Works.

Grant Jessop, druggist, Chilliwack, B.C., has been burned out. Insurance \$2,500.

H. E. Calkin has purchased the drug business of R. O. Christie at Springhill, N.S.

Harbottle has opened a new drug store in the Rossin House block, Toronto, Ont.

N. C. Polson & Co., druggists, Kingston, Ont., have sold their business to W. H. Medley.

R. G. McPherson, druggist, New Westminster, B.C., has sold his business to H. Ryal & Co.

W. S. Robinson has sold his drug business on Avenue Road, Toronto, Ont., to R. C. Hueston.

It is reported that McCartney & Co., druggists, Nanaimo, B.C., are about selling their business.

Thomas Johnston, Avenue Road, Toronto, Ont., has sold his drug business to B. D. Turquand.

H. W. Bleasdale, druggist, Fort Macleod, N.W.T., is arranging a settlement at 50 cents on the dollar.

J. W. Colcleugh, druggist, of Mount Forest, Ont., has been elected mayor of that town by acclamation.

The drug stock of George E. Clark, Gravenhurst, Ont., was completely destroyed by fire on Jan. 4th.

G. E. Gibbard has opened a branch drug store on College street, near Clinton street, Toronto. It will be under the management of F. Nichaus.

H. W. Mitchell, who passed his examination at the O.C.P. last month, goes to Winnipeg, Man., to take a position in his father's drug store in that city.

R. Tuthill has disposed of his drug business on Lake street, Chicago, and has purchased the Market Drug Store, Toronto, owned by R. O. Sinder & Co.

A. B. Petrie, jr., is a partner in his father's businesses, Guelph, Ont., dating from January 1st. We can only wish him the success that has always attended the old firm.

A. B. Petrie, of Guelph, Ont., the genial president of the Ontario College of Pharmacy, and Miss Petrie, left on Wednesday, January 9th, for a pleasure trip to Australia, to be gone three months. We wish them a pleasant voyage and safe return.