

all the protection and advantages that can possibly be derived from a League are similarly depressed, so we may naturally infer that this new panacea is not an infallible remedy for all the ills of the jewelry trade. The fact is that most business troubles arise from violations of ordinary business laws, too many in the business, ignorance of the trade and want of proper management, extravagance in buying and in giving credit, these and kindred abuses are what are really eating the life out of the jewelry business in Canada. This being the case it follows that no amount of legislation that could be secured nowadays would remedy the existing state of things with some people. If the promoter of this League can get Parliament to legislate brains into people's heads, give them a thorough knowledge of the trade, furnish them with capital adequate to their wants, and force them to do business only upon business principles, then and then only will the jewelry millenium have arrived for a certain class of jewelers who are always in hot water under our present matter of fact conditions.

The proposition to allow such a League to license only those who pass an examination by its board is about as rich a thing as any man outside of an asylum ever proposed. Who would compose the board of examiners, what should their qualifications be, by whom should they be appointed, what would be the nature of these examinations, theoretical or mechanical or both? These and fifty other questions stare one in the face at the first blush, and no doubt as many more and equally hard to settle would crop up before such a board could ever be got at work. In the meantime, what would be done with the jewelers who are not practical mechanics, but only possessed of the commonplace qualifications of having capital and brains enough to run a business successfully. Should they be kicked out of the trade neck and crop, or would the proposed Jewelers' Guild be pleased to grant them a special dispensation which would enable them to carry on their trade? No doubt these gentlemen, and their name in Canada is legion, for they are many, will find their heart in their throat when they hear of this proposed move, and the chance that, like Othello, their occupation of which they have all along been honorable exponents may soon be a thing of the past.

This proposition to place watchmakers

and jewelers upon exactly the same platform as doctors and druggists is absurd in the utmost degree. The Medical and Pharmaceutical Associations are empowered by statute to enforce rigid examinations in order to protect the public against the blunders of quacks or incompetent persons in matters where an error may be fatal to the life of the person employing them. In both cases it is protection for the public that is sought for, and not protection for the doctors and druggists. As far as the public and the jewelry trade are concerned the former require no protection whatever. Even if a jeweler is dishonest and sells 10 karat gold for 18 karat, takes wheels out of watches, as they are said to do when repairing them, so that they never go properly afterward, or even if he commits all the crimes in the jewelers' decalogue, what is the consequence? Simply that a customer once cheated is not likely to be caught again by the same person, and as a result the dishonest jeweler soon finds himself without any customers to operate upon. He may lighten their pockets once, but he rarely gets a second chance to do so, and in any event he does himself more harm than them. If jewelers get legislation of this kind then grocers will soon be wanting a similar act to cure their business ills; then the tailor and shoemaker will follow suit, and no one can predict where the end will be. These are some of the reasons why we object to the aims of this proposed League.

We object to this new departure the second place because we have no faith in its promoter. We do not know exactly who its promoters are, or whether it has more than one. So far as we can learn Mr. R. Knox, of Mount Forest, is at present the sole proprietor of this wonderful patent nostrum that is going to "remedy many things" in the jewelry business. Now we do not wish to say one hard or unkind word about either Mr. Knox or his ability to run such an institution, but we may be permitted to state our deliberate conviction that Mr. Knox is not a suitable person to inaugurate such an enterprise. The originator of such a League should at least be a person of some standing in the trade, one whose business record is without blemish and who not only possesses brains enough to run such an organization, but also the confidence of the majority of the trade.

In our opinion, and we say it with all

respect for the gentleman in question, Mr. R. Knox does not come up to this standard, and is not a proper person either to inaugurate such an enterprise or carry it on to a successful issue. We understand that Mr. Knox is asking those favorable to his scheme to send him \$9.00 each in order to pay the preliminary expenses of printing and postage, from which it would seem that his new League are going to deal largely in printer's ink. Our advice to these gentlemen is to keep their money in their own pockets until a common sense League is formed with men at the head of it in whom they have entire confidence.

In our next issue we may have something more to say about what a jewelers League should try to accomplish for our Canadian trade. At present we leave this matter in its present shape in the confident hope that the trade of this Province will not allow themselves to be led away on some wild goose chase after impossible and nonsensical legislation. If, however, we have misjudged Mr. Knox and his League, we shall be glad to be set right, and promise to give his version an equal publicity with our own views on this subject.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of THE TRADER.

Dear Sir,—It appears the watchmakers are beginning to awake to the necessity of forming a union. All other trades have their unions. Watchmakers seem to be the only trade without one, and there is no trade in Canada that has more need of one, as it will have a tendency to help both the boss and the journeyman. If, as I suggested in my letter in your December number, an Act could be got compelling all who deal in clocks or watches to pay a license, and those who undertake to repair pass an examination as to their proficiency, it would be a means of protecting the owners of watches as well as the trade.

It does seem strange that the trade have not been more alive to their own interests, as in your number of last August appears a letter from a Hamilton jeweler, which you endorse in your editorial of the same date. I made bold to address you in your issue of December, which you kindly inserted, and have been waiting to see correspondence from others of the craft, but none appear to trouble themselves to write, although