

## Pharmacy in England.

The "Perennial" President of the Pharmaceutical Society—The Preliminary Examination and Curriculum—Clarke's Blood Mixture Capsules and Adulteration—Photography as a Chemist's Extra.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

For the fourteenth year in succession Michael Carteighe has been elected President of the Pharmaceutical Society. No wonder, therefore, that he is called the "perennial" president, and that pharmacists begin to think that it would be impossible for the machine to progress without his guiding hand. It is frequently asserted by those who are jealous of his power, and the number of years in which he has wielded it, that there is no other body that has permitted this one-man policy for such a period. In this the critics are mistaken. We have in England a comparison close at hand that exactly fits with the Carteighean rule—I refer to the number of years in which art has been personified in this country through the perennial president of the Royal Academy—Sir Frederick Leighton. No one is prepared to say that Sir Frederick is the leading artist of the day, but his long presidency is entirely due to the fact that he is a splendid figure-head for an august assembly. The comparison would hardly appear altogether favorable to Mr. Carteighe, but the truth remains that much of his success is due to the fact that he is a splendid figure-head—his intimate friends notwithstanding. It is true that he has no little statesmanship in guiding and directing affairs, and more especially in managing his colleagues on the council, but his record as to legislative and departmental achievements is absolutely *nil*. Against this it must be set down that it is by no means so easy to frame a measure satisfactory to the trade and palatable to parliament. Mr. Carteighe is a capital financier and has excellent abilities, but he has left undone several things that are of urgent importance to the welfare of pharmacy in England.

I will only refer to two in particular—the preliminary examination and the regulation regarding a compulsory three years' acquaintance with the dispensing of prescriptions. Attention has repeatedly been drawn to the ridiculous requirements of our pharmaceutical preliminary. Elementary English grammar, rudiments of arithmetic, and a slight knowledge of Latin are all the demands we make upon youths who are afterwards required to obtain a fairly sound insight into various branches of science. The inadequacy of the entrance examination is universally admitted, but apparently no councillor is prepared to move for its amendment. The regulation respecting the three years' dispensing is too often honored in the breach rather than in the scrupulous observance. Here is one of the greatest safeguards of pharmacy absolutely allowed to become a dead letter, instead of being exacted without fear or favor. If the regulation compelled every one to produce evidence of this three years' curriculum by means of

indenture to a qualified chemist, a good deal would be gained. As it is, any qualified man may "sign up" the paper and it is accepted without reference or demerit. It is thus that doctor's errand boys and grocers' clerks, who have a smattering of patent medicine knowledge, actually go to a pharmaceutical college to be "coached" through the minor examination!

Clarke's Blood Mixture is the latest candidate for opprobrium, according to *Science Siftings*. In spite of its twenty-five years' existence as a proprietary medicine, we are now informed that it is not only useless, but injurious. This opinion is formed upon the analysis of a seven ounce bottle, the contents of which weighed 65½ ozs. The composition is stated to be as follows: Potassium iodide 1.23 parts, potash 0.15 parts, caramel 1.50 parts, spirit of chloroform 2.5 parts, water to make 100 parts. In connection with this analysis, I may mention that it is generally believed in the trade that at one time the liquid extract of sarsaparilla formed an important ingredient in this preparation. If the above composition be correct, it is evident that it is not now included, and therefore one of the principal remedies for the complaints for which it is recommended is now omitted. Readers of this letter may remember that a similar charge was made against another proprietary preparation, Koko for the hair, a few months back. This variation in the ingredients seems to me one of the most reprehensible features in connection with proprietaries. A druggist, in most civilized countries, could be fined if he left out the principal or most expensive ingredient in a pharmacopoeial tincture, and rightly so. But the public are to have no safeguard or guarantee that the composition of a proprietary preparation has not been arbitrarily altered by the proprietor.

"Examine your capsules" will be the advice generally given after the paper recently read before the Society of Public Analysts. It was therein stated that castor oil was a frequent adulteration in santal oil capsules and also another oil—unsaponifiable, odorless, and not recognizable. The latter oil was probably the neutral water-white petroleum oil or liquid vaseline, which is quite odorless, and very suitable for suspending insoluble bodies in capsules. For years cedar wood oil has been a favorite adulteration for santal oil in capsules, now castor oil appears to have taken its place.

Journals of pharmacy all over the world are appreciating the position of pharmacists to photography, and assisting the development of this addition to business by devoting space to descriptions of methods, new developers, and the like. It is becoming quite a usual sight at most of the large seaside resorts in England to find that several of the leading chemists have given considerable attention to the subject, and reserved space in their windows for cameras, lenses, etc. The extraordinary fall in prices of all photographic

goods during the last few years has facilitated the operations of chemists in the direction of making new trade. Lenses with iris diaphragms that a few years ago cost 50s. each are now to be had at 25s. In the same way good working cameras are obtainable at about half the price paid only a few years back. There can be no two opinions that pharmacists should seize the favorable opportunity that presents itself, or in a few more years the retail of photographic necessities and accessories will become a recognized and distinct trade of itself. None are in the position to explain manipulation and suggest improvements to amateur photographers so well as the pharmacist with his chemical knowledge and his trade journal. There is nothing like a practical acquaintance with the subject, and all who propose taking up this branch of trade should unquestionably do some amateur work on their own account, if only to obtain the practical insight in order to explain difficulties and suggest improvements to their customers. A very fair stock of all the necessary apparatus for commencing a business in this line can be obtained for an outlay of about \$300 to \$400.

London, June 25th.

## Pharmaceutical Association—District No. 10.

At the call of the secretary, the following druggists met in the Council Chamber in Stratford, on June 18th, for their annual meeting. Messrs. Ansley & Mc Bride, of Port Dover; Hodge & Thomson, of Mitchell; Gayfor, of Ingersoll; C. E. Nasmyth, J. H. Nasmyth, Bosworth, Dutton, of Stratford; W. A. Karn, J. C. Karn, Scott, Pepper, Philips, Gunn, Walton, and White, of Woodstock.

The president, Mr. Karn, explained object of meeting, and also the affairs of the college, and at length gave a full description of the difficulties encountered in the late proposed amendments to the Pharmacy Act.

Special working committees were appointed to secure new members and report to the secretary: Mr. Bosworth, C. E. Nasmyth, Mr. Frleigh, Mr. Hodge, for the county of Perth; Mr. Ansley, Mr. Austin, and Mr. Yorke, for the county of Norfolk; and Messrs. Pepper, Gayfor, and McCallum, for the county of Oxford.

On motion of Mr. Bosworth, seconded by Mr. Gayfor, the secretary was instructed to forward to Mr. W. A. McCallum, of Tilsonburg, the late secretary, the hearty vote of thanks for his services in connection with the association and in all matters relating to the interests of the druggists. The annual meeting to be on the last Thursday in May, and the place of next meeting to be Woodstock. The officers elected for 1895-96 were: W. A. Karn, Woodstock, president; N. A. Bosworth, Stratford, vice president; D. A. White, Woodstock, secretary-treasurer.