

A glowing prospectus says the British and Colonial Druggist is being privately circulated by a city firm of financial and general agents of a concern which, if its promoters are successful in bringing it into existence is, we understand, to be known as the Incorporated Patent Medicine Society, limited. The proposed capital of the company is £60,000, which at first sight appears somewhat small in view of the magnitude of the undertaking. The prospectus sets forth a list of upwards of fifty preparations, which it is proposed that the company shall work, when the syndicate, which the agents referred to are now attempting to form, has brought the project into joint stock being. These preparations include pills of various sorts, lotions, powders, sauces, dentifrices, a saline mixture which "restores the nervous system, and keeps the blood free from impurities," an extract for "torpid liver, giddiness and rheumatism," a " highly patronised " violet powder, "the perfection of blacking," a kid-reviver, a pectoral halsam, iodised sarsaparilla, tonic bitters, blood elixirs, baking powder, a blue-black ink, described as "a superb and unrivalled article," "Gull's Polishing Paste," &c. It is noticeable that several of the preparations appear to be the proprietaries of the agents who have conceived the idea of bringing out the company. It further seems that these promoters have a high opinion of the merits of the proprietary articles, a few of which we have named, which the company is to take over, for we see it stated that they are "superior to, and will supersede," a number of well known preparations ; and, at the same time, those among whom the prospectus has been circulated are led to assume that, within three months after the anticipated allotment of shares in the company, treble the amount of any subscription to a syndicate capital of \pounds 5,000 will be returned. The purchase money is put down at \pounds 30,000, and it is believed that after this sum has been paid, together with broker's commission, legal expenses, stamp duty, and other disbursements, there will be a sufficient balance available for the establishment of stores in the metropolis, and branches in the provinces, the United States, the Colonies, and India, as well as for liberal advertising and the employment of efficient managers and travellers.

Canadian Baking Powders.

Some of the American baking powder companies have been endeavoring to obtain a reduction in the import duty on baking pow ders. They have not received much encouragement from the Government, and it is more than likely that no alteration will be made. It is only recently that the duty was increased 2c. per lb. This was of course received with very great satisfaction, and very properly too, by the manufacturers of baking powders in Canada. So far we have heard no complaints from the retail trade, nor are there likely to be any. As long as the Canadian manufacturer in any line is able to put up as good an article as anything imported, Canadians will prefer to see him get the trade. There are some special lines which are manufactured here and on the American side, but the quality of the American article is such that the trade here must have it. This is not the case with baking powders. The best brands of Canadian baking powder are fully as good as the best imported. Canada is committed to a protective policy, and baking powder manufacturers are entitled to and will receive the protection they require.

Hydrocyanic Acid and Calomel.

The gray tint which calonicl assumes in the presence of traces of hydrocyanic acid was attributed by Scheele to the liberation of metallic mercury and the formation of evanide of mercury and hydrochloric acid. Subsequent writers have, however, represented the decomposing as involving the formation of mercuric chloride. Some experiments made recently by M. Fouquet (Jour. Pharm. Chim., November 1. page 400) appear to disprove this latter theory and confirm that of Scheele. M. Fouquet is of the opinion that the action of hydrocyanic acht upon calomel does not result in the formation of sublimate, but that mercury is set free with the formation of mercuric cyanide and hydrochloric acid in equivalent quantities. The reaction does not generally go on to completion, as it ceases when a certain quantity of hydrochlorie acid is set free, varying with the strength of the solution of hydrocyanic acid employed : but if this acid be neutralized, the reaction recommences. Inversely, the addition of a sufficient quantity of hydrochloric acid to the mixture prevents the reaction. -- Pharmaceutical Journal and Transactions,