

Pharmacy in England.

Progress of the P. A. T. Association—Jubilee Honors—British Pharmacopœia, 1897—Syrup of Figs—Austrian Tonic Wine.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Not many years ago I gave an account of a new method of fighting the "mush-druggist" and extreme "cutter," as suggested by a Mr. William Johnstone, pharmaceutical chemist, Buxton, London. Essentially his plan was to combine manufacturer, wholesale dealer and retailer under a rebate system. That it did not succeed is true, because rebate system entails extra clerical work for which no one is inclined to pay, consequently the wholesale dealer and manufacturer gave it the cold shoulder. Still it was something in the way of combination, and now we have its successor, the Proprietary Articles Trade Association, that in not more than twelve months has gathered 2,000 adherents, and presents quite a respectable list of "protected" articles. The moving spirit in England is Mr. W. S. Glyn-Jones, a popular chemist in the east end of London, who has worked like a Trojan to dissipate the suspicion with which chemists and druggists in this country regard all new movements for the regeneration of trade profits. It is this lukewarmness of the trade, born from the knowledge of so many previous failures, that the association has most to fight. It is obvious to everybody that the leading proprietary manufacturers will not risk the unknown effect on their valuable properties by joining the association until at least the majority of those in whose interest it is mainly devised have shown their appreciation by joining. There are at least 14,000 or 15,000 chemists in business in the United Kingdom, so that the association, thus far, is not enabled to speak on behalf of the majority. That it will progress if only sufficient time is given it, no sane person can doubt, but manufacturers will only be convinced by figures, and slow progress would be regarded as a bad sign.

The coming exhibition of the *British and Colonial Druggist* is looked forward to by the officials of the P. A. T. A. as an excellent opportunity to push their plan, and, judging by last year, they will probably gain hundreds of druggists to the fold. It is unfortunate that several of the councillors of the Pharmaceutical Society affect to regard the basis of the association as immoral; that the proper position to take up regarding the patent medicine business is not benevolent neutrality as recommended by the association, but open hostility, thus driving the sale more and more into the hands of the stores and grocers. The association showed its teeth at the last election of councillors of the Pharmaceutical Society, and as a result Messrs. Cartledge and Savory were relegated to the bottom of the list of successful candidates, because as proprietors of Dinneford's Fluid Magnesia and Savory and Moore's specialties, respectively, they

have not thought fit to join in the new movement. This should show the leaders of the society that at all events a good number of the society's supporters are in dead earnest in the matter, and may therefore lead to a desirable change of front.

Lord Salisbury has again showed his appreciation of the work of scientific men, in the conferring of Jubilee honors, as distinguished from political services and army and navy preferments. It is only a few months since surgery and science were honored by raising Sir Joseph Lister, president of the Royal Society, to the peerage. Now Sir William MacCormac, president of the Royal College of Surgeons, and Dr. Samuel Wilks, president of the Royal College of Physicians, have received baronetcies. Professor Crookes, F.R.S., editor of *Chemical News*, to whose knowledge of the rare earth's and electrical phenomena many recent discoveries are due, receives a knighthood; Dr. W. R. Gowers, F.R.S., the celebrated neurologist, receives a similar honor. Two other scientific men, Dr. Edward Frankland, F.R.S., and Professor Norman Lockyer are made K.C.B. The former made some of his most famous discoveries in chemistry exactly forty-five years ago—so that the honor cannot be said to have been unduly hastened. It is highly probable that Herbert Spencer again refused a peerage, just as Lord Salisbury declined a dukedom. The *Chemist and Druggist's* real live poet suggested to Her Majesty to

Make Walter Hills a Baron of Pills
And Michael Cartledge an Earl.

But, alas! pharmacy never obtained proper recognition and the president of the Pharmaceutical Society gets—nothing.

The British Pharmacopœia of 1897 has now threatened to make its appearance in November, but it has been such an outrageous time that gradually all interest has faded, to be followed only by mild curiosity. The idea of Mr. Chas. Umney of placing those remedies and preparations that have colonial preference in an appendix has had to be adopted, although when first suggested it was disapproved. Standardisation has not been carried out to anything like the extent that some enthusiasts would wish, for the simple reason that the committees recognized that it would be a death-blow to the practice of making tinctures in the pharmacy. But if this was the only reason it does not seem satisfactory, as the loss of spirit in making tinctures in the back shop and without proper means of expressing the residual spirit from the marc is sufficient to deter the majority of pharmacists at the present day.

Syrup of figs, thanks partly to the Calitoman brand, has become a favorite laxative at the moment. Judging from some of the samples that I obtained recently, there were more figs on the label than in the preparation. The fact is nearly all these preparations have senna as the active ingredient, although it is by no means

an ideal laxative owing to its strong griping nature. If the characteristic taste of Epsom salts can be sufficiently masked by aromatics, there is no finer purgative, but black draught is unnecessarily nauseous. Another drug that is falling into disrepute owing to its decidedly strong taste is rhubarb, and it is one of the most difficult to mask. No wonder the public has taken so kindly to pills, and little liver pills in particular, when half the mixtures are as nauseous as they can be.

Of the making of tonic wines there is no end. The latest candidate on the English market hails from Austria, and rejoices in the title of Serravallo's Ferruginous Quinine Wine. According to the label its title should be "China Serravallo Ferruginosa," and is manufactured at the "Farmacia Serravallo, Trieste." It is claimed to have no "styptic taste," from which one supposes that "free from astringency" is meant. It is recommended specially to convalescents, especially those "suffering from anæmia and indigestion, after sea-sickness, and in hot climates." It will be interesting to see how the proprietors intend pushing the wine, as the general agents in England are Roberts & Co., who have several capital foreign agencies, although nothing in this line.

Wholesale Drug and Proprietary Medicine Dealers' Association.

The regular meeting of the Wholesale Drug and Proprietary Medicine Dealers' Association was held at Queen's Hotel, June 15th, President Hay in the chair. After the regular meeting of the association was finished the meeting was waited on by representatives of the Manufacturers' Association and Retailers, to see if some plan could not be devised to make more satisfactory the existing agreement between the manufacturers, retailers, and jobbers, as it was felt the present agreement was not thoroughly workable.

The jobbers and retailers had proposed a scheme at a previous committee meeting for endorsement by the Manufacturers' Association but they considered the suggestions as not being practicable, and asked that time be given them to thoroughly organize their association and present a scheme to the joint meeting to be held at the time of the annual Wholesale Drug and Proprietary Medicine Dealers' Association meeting, to be held at the Queen's Hotel, Toronto, the first week in September.

The Optical Institute of Canada purpose during the approaching Industrial Exhibition to have a reunion of all their old graduates and to demonstrate each day the technique of some of the later and useful instruments. Fuller details and dates will appear in our next issue.