

riculum of study has no room for new work, but, should a two years' course be instituted, then such work could reasonably be taken up to good practical advantage. An opportunity will now be given the college to give some return to those who have sustained it by their fees since their graduation period and we trust that in this way the involuntary contributor will be made to feel that he is at last reaping for what he has so unwillingly sown.

Grocers Against Druggists.

The grocers and departmental stores of the Province of Quebec are in league against the retail druggist, and are jointly interested in trying to secure an amendment to the Quebec Pharmacy Act which will give them in legal form privileges which they have heretofore been usurping, but which they could not claim as a right. The druggists are fighting the amendment with right good will, and with reasonable prospects of being successful. In the lower house, where members are elected by popular vote, the predominance of grocery interest and grocers' votes is likely to tell against the druggist, but in the upper house, where such influences cannot bear so heavily on the elastic conscience of the member, the result is likely to be more favorable to the druggist. Amongst druggists themselves there is quite a diversity of opinion. The courageous ones being for a fight for the rights they conceive their education, training, and compliance with the law entitles them to, and the more cautious ones advising to go slowly and not antagonize those who have greater voting power. It is a somewhat difficult matter to determine which of these views is the wise one, but at our distance and with our experience of contests fought upon similar lines in the Province of Ontario we would be inclined to back the defending fighters. It is a general rule of life that a fighter is never whipped until he gives in or has to give in. It works out on the principle that if you strive for a lot you are apt to get something, but if you strive for a little you are apt to get nothing. The executive of the Pharmaceutical Association of the Province have put forth their utmost effort to kill the bill, and amongst other steps taken have secured the signatures of all the prominent physicians to a petition praying the legislature that no amendment to the pharmacy law be granted.

Our sympathies are one with the druggists of the Province of Quebec. The act they enjoy is well-worded and a good one, but in no sense unjust to the public or the commercial community. We sincerely trust that they will win and will establish their act upon such a sound basis that it can become a bulwark for the other Provinces when they are similarly assailed.

What Fees should be Paid.

It is very evident from the discussion by the Council, regarding the liability of partners for fees, that this much vexed question is one upon which all are not united in opinion. The solicitor's opinion, as to the power of the Council to collect fees from members of the College for each business in which they are interested, may be a good legal interpretation of the act, but, we doubt if it is an opinion which will find general favor with practical and thoughtful pharmacists.

The purpose for which medical, dental and pharmaceutical bodies have power to collect fees is to establish and maintain a system of government for their respective professions. Each has been given power to grant licenses to practise, but it would be absurd to suppose that they could determine how or where the licensee should pursue his practice, or how he should invest his money in the conduct of it. No law can properly specify the number of stores any man shall control, even though his multiplication of them may seem an injustice to others. It is solely a matter of business judgment on his part whether he shall invest ten thousand dollars in one store or in four. His inability to distribute his personal managership affords the Council the only opportunity it should have to collect increased revenue from his method of investment.

Regardless of the interpretation which may be placed upon the law, it is our opinion that every druggist, who is in business on his own account, or as manager for another, should pay the fee which secures him the right to practise and to vote. Every druggist—one fee, one license, one vote, would be our motto.

Assuming that the license is given to the person and not to the store, then partners will each be liable for one fee whether both are in one store or one in each store. If both chose to remain in the same store and to place a branch in

the charge of a qualified employee, he should pay the fee and secure a vote. His assumption of the duties and responsibilities of his employers should carry with it direct liability to the College and the public. In this way only can full responsibility be assumed, as any other method is more or less of an evasion. We have no desire to hamper the College in collecting its revenue, but the mixed condition now existing should not be allowed to continue. If the law is just it should be enforced, if unjust it should be amended. This part of the Act is one largely within the determination of the Council, and the maintenance of a uniform and liberal policy would not weaken it any, while it would strengthen very much the hands of the chairman of the infringement committee, who always has more than his share of such difficult and vexatious matters to adjust.

Vexatious Opposition.

The retail druggists of Quebec are making a gallant fight to defeat the attempt of the retail grocers and departmental stores to amend the Quebec Pharmacy Act, so as to legalize their right to handle patents and all medicines of a non-poisonous character. Ontario pharmacy history is repeating itself in Quebec, as Dr. Morin, wholesale druggist, and Professor McIntyre, professor of chemistry and physics at Morrin College, have openly given evidence before the legislative committee on behalf of the grocers, whilst we understand some prominent patent medicine firms have flatly refused to sign the druggists' petition against the measure. Self seems to be still the dominant factor in commercial life, yet exemplification of it along these lines will not be apt to prove conducive to the maintenance of friendly relations between the manufacturer and the jobber, or the wholesaler and his customers. The professor can be excused on the score of ignorance, as a knowledge of commercial matters is foreign to his understanding. The sympathy of every druggist in Canada is with their Quebec confrères in the efforts they are making to maintain their present position. Their success or failure will determine largely the future of other provinces, and establish a precedent which will either make or mar the prospects of licentiates of pharmacy in all parts of Canada.