

The Klondike boom and the rapid influx of settlers into Manitoba and the Northwest are factors which will in time contribute to make our country and climate more widely and favorably known and to aid in producing a new era of business success in a country whose advantages only need to be known to be appreciated.

The marked attention paid to our Premier in the Motherland during the Jubilee, and the world-wide advertisement which that gave us, will have an enduring effect in inducing and retaining invested capital and in securing for our bonds the highest figure which any colony can hope to receive. Our country is better than it is known to be. Our securities are becoming more generally respected. Our prospects for producing all kinds of marketable commodities were never better, and a continuance of the present market prices is certain to conduce to the mutual benefit of every Canadian before the year 1898 has been brought to a close.

#### The New B.P.

The advent of the new Pharmacopœia, and the very marked changes in many of the most frequently prescribed preparations, has caused considerable anxiety amongst druggists as to what they should do under the circumstances. The more conservative are still dispensing according to the old issue, not caring to take chances in increasing strengths until some general agreement has been arrived at with the medical profession. There is no doubt that the new issue is authoritative and should be adopted as speedily as possible; yet there is but little chance of it becoming so unless some form of general and united action is taken. In our opinion the Councils of our various pharmaceutical college should at once take steps to communicate with the Medical Councils of their respective provinces, and, in conjunction with them, issue an agreement to both professions. In this way only can the feeling of unrest which now exists be appeased and the old text-book displaced. Several enquiries have been addressed to us asking what should be done, and we must confess our inability to advise until some such step has been taken. The new book must be used soon, but how soon and how effectively remains for these bodies to decide.

#### An Optical Association.

In another column a correspondent calls attention to the fact that the Optical Association, organized in Toronto last year, has apparently been allowed to go out of existence. That this should be the case is very unfortunate; the movement well begun should be not only kept alive, but should receive every encouragement, especially from those members of the drug trade who are opticians and dealers in optical goods. It has always been our endeavor to impress upon the drug trade what a splendid opportunity this line of goods offers as an addition to their regular stock, and at the same time we have endeavored to show the necessity of being thorough masters of the science by a regular course of study, before embarking in the sale of these goods. Every one knows the vast injury that is inflicted on a number of people in this country through the improper fitting of spectacles by persons who are altogether incompetent for the work, and one of the main objects of this association, as we understand it, is to secure to the general public the same safeguard as is now given them in the dispensing of medicines, and preventing any but competent and qualified persons from attempting to treat so delicate an organ as that of the eye.

We hope that the druggist-opticians, of which there are now such a large number in Canada, will do all in their power to further and complete the organization of this association, and will see to it that the druggists, who must eventually be the leaders in optical science in the country, if for no other reason than on account of their higher standard of education, will be at the front in this undertaking.

#### The International Congress of Applied Chemistry.

The third International Congress of Applied Chemistry will be held in Vienna, from July 28th till August 2nd, inclusive. Amongst the branches of chemistry to be represented at the congress are the following: Medical and pharmaceutical chemistry, tar products, explosives, fats, leather illuminants. It has been arranged that several other meetings of interest to chemists shall be held at the same time in Vienna. These are the international meeting of chemists and microscopists, of the chemistry of food; the annual meeting of the International Commission for Universal Methods of Sugar Analysis;

the meeting of the representatives of experimental stations of agriculture and forestry in Austria; and the festival meeting in honor of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Pharmaceutical Society of Vienna. The great jubilee exhibition in honor of the fifty years' jubilee of His Majesty the Emperor Franz Joseph I. will also be open at this time. All particulars as to membership, etc., may be obtained from the secretaries, Vienna IV/2 Schonburgstrasse 6.

#### Grumbles on the British Pharmacopœia, 1898.

By J. E.

Within a few weeks the new edition of the British Pharmacopœia will be in the hands of most of the English-speaking druggists of the world, and, without a doubt, though probably not expressed through the medium of the press, many and loud will be the complaints. Those who have had an opportunity of glancing over the pages of this book have been disappointed. Much, very much, was expected of this '98 Pharmacopœia; the labor expended upon it appeared to be endless; opinions and suggestions were invited from every medical board, who, in turn, consulted with the pharmacists, and what has been the result? A Pharmacopœia soaring away over the heads of average druggists; teeming with questionable alterations in methods of preparations; weakening here and increasing the strength there; a veritable creator of confusion. To what purpose? Does the average druggist prepare his preparations strictly according to the British Pharmacopœia? Anyone who has had any experience at all knows that to follow the B.P. means unsightly and poor results in many cases. Squire recognized this fact years ago and published his "Companion," than which there is no better guide to the pharmacist. Squire acts as an interpreter of results that the Medical Council want to obtain, and shows how to go about it. I think I am right when I say that Squire is relied upon by more druggists than is the B.P. itself. This experience of former years bids fair to be repeated; for without the "interpreter" the B.P. is foolishness. How many will prepare *Lotio Hydrarg. Nig.* according to the '98 B.P.? and how many retail druggists will attempt to make *Tr. Opii* from the gum now? Will every druggist straightway forget all about *Spt. Tenuior* and embrace the alcohol of the B.P.? And