

of freight. They are only acetic acid of varying strength, colored and sometimes flavored with acetic ether and other ethers so as to resemble more closely the malt vinegar. When diluted with water they yield vinegars of about the same strength as regards acetic acid as the genuine malt preparation. I have never heard a word of objection raised against them, and the steady and increasing sale indicates that they are popular with the trade and the public.

The election of Professor Dunstan as a Fellow of the Royal Society is an honor which reflects greatly to the credit of the Pharmaceutical Society. By the inauguration of a Research Laboratory for pharmacological investigations, Professor Dunstan was given the opportunity, which he quickly availed himself of, to make a name for himself. In a little over four years he has produced, with the help of a small band of senior pharmaceutical students, a large number of important results, commencing with the nitrites and ending, so far, with the unfinished aconite work. Professor Dunstan is a courteous, gentlemanly young man of about 31, with a good voice and commanding style. It is to the latter trait of an unconsciously assumed air of superiority that he owes his unpopularity with his students. Although he is ever ready to do his utmost for them, his manner does not attract their confidence but merely ensures their respect. This is his only defect as a teacher, as his lectures are in every way admirable. With a thorough grasp of his subjects and a lucid manner of explaining difficult problems, he is probably a model of the professional lecturer. He is also indefatigable in his work. Besides daily lecturing at the Society's School of Pharmacy, he is lecturer at St. Thomas' Hospital, director of the Research Laboratory, and yet finds time to contribute important and voluminous articles to standard works.

The Royal Society is a very exclusive body and only numbers some 460 Fellows. Each year a ballot takes place for about 15 new Fellows, and the names are usually submitted some months before by the Council. The Chemical, Linnæan, Geological and Royal Microscopical Societies have considerable influence by submitting names to the Council of the Royal Society, but it is by no means unusual for first-rate scientists to have their names submitted on several occasions before acceptance. Thus, Professor Wanklyn tried unsuccessfully and would not permit his name to be put down again, whilst Sir Henry Roscoe was not elected on the first occasion. Pharmacy can claim a fair proportion of Fellows in Professors Attfield, Tilden, Dunstan, Sir Frederick Abel, etc., whilst the late Daniel Hanbury, and W. H. Brady had also the honor of representing pharmacy in the Royal Society.

An interesting controversy is just now agitating the wholesale druggists in this country, the outcome of which is awaited

eagerly by both sides. The Wholesale Druggists' Club recently raised a protest against the ipecacuanha which has of late been offered on the market here. Much of the ipecacuanha which has arrived since the price has been greatly enhanced by scarcity abroad is a mixture in varying proportions of woody stem and root. The researches of Hooper, Ransom, and others, have conclusively shown that whilst all parts of the ipecacuanha contain emetine, the root contains the largest proportion. The wholesale druggists therefore protested against this admixture. Shortly afterwards the brokers published a certificate of analysis of this woody ipecacuanha by Mr. Cripps, whose name will not be altogether unfamiliar to your readers by reason of my comments recently on his newly-published work on pharmacy. This certificate tended to indicate that the ipecacuanha in question was of good average quality and had a slightly higher percentage of emetine than the average. This aroused the wrath of the druggists, who openly declined to admit Mr. Cripps' figures and demanded a portion of the bale to be sent to Professor Attfield so as to obtain an independent opinion. This was acceded and the result has not yet been declared. Whatever the result may be it would certainly be more satisfactory to sell the two portions quite separately for what they may be worth and not mixing them in the present fashion. Of course the blame is laid as usual upon "the rascals on the other side," who will not take the trouble to exercise discretion in this matter. But the wholesale druggists appear determined to try and remedy this.

An Important Discovery for Deadening Pain.

A discovery in the domain of anesthetics is being a good deal talked about in medical circles in Vienna, which, if it bear the severe tests which it is proposed to apply to it, will prove an inestimable boon to suffering humanity. Neither of the two agencies heretofore employed by surgeons to deaden or minimize physical pain during serious operations—chloroform and cocaine—is wholly free from danger. Chloroform cannot be administered to persons suffering from heart disease, poverty of blood, etc., and cocaine injections under the skin have more than once had exceedingly deleterious effects. The new discovery, which is credited to Dr. K. L. Schleich, determines the fact that absolute local immunity from pain even during protracted operations can be obtained without resorting to general parcosis of the patient, so that a sufferer may remain perfectly conscious during the amputation of his hand or foot without undergoing the tortures usually associated with such operations, or exposing himself to the danger of syncope ever present in the operating room. It appears that subcutaneous injections of a solution of sugar or salt, and even of simple cold distilled

water, will produce exactly the same local anesthetic effects as cocaine.

The explanation of the phenomenon is simple: Local insensibility to pain is caused in the case of cocaine by purely chemical changes; while cold water acts mechanically by means of high pressure and low temperature. Under the influence of the high pressure and sudden lowering of temperature, the blood and lymph are driven from the region operated upon to places where the pressure is less. The tissue is thus deprived of its supply of blood, and temporary paralysis of the nerves results. It is stated on the authority of one of the first physicians in Europe that the importance of this discovery is all the more undoubted seeing that if, in a given case, cold water alone should fail to produce the needful degree of insensibility, a weak and absolutely harmless solution of cocaine would prove certainly efficacious.—*Pacific Druggist.*

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