

What We Are.

The engraving which we present here shows the continent of North America, and the exact proportion of it included in Canada. Amongst many outsiders there has long been a strange misconception as to the size and situation of this country, and the most ridiculous statements have, from time to time, appeared in the press.

In England it has become an almost universal practice to designate the United States of America as "America," whilst, it will be observed, that country occupies less than one-half of this continent, although we must concede to it both extent of territory and vastness of population.

Canada covers a territory of 3,458,400 square miles, being 500,000 square miles

or of making any comparisons; but the fact that the CANADIAN DRUGGIST covers this vast extent of territory, reaching the intelligent and trained constituency of pharmacists within its boundary, shows the importance of its mission and the value of its circulation amongst those with whom it is so intimately in touch.

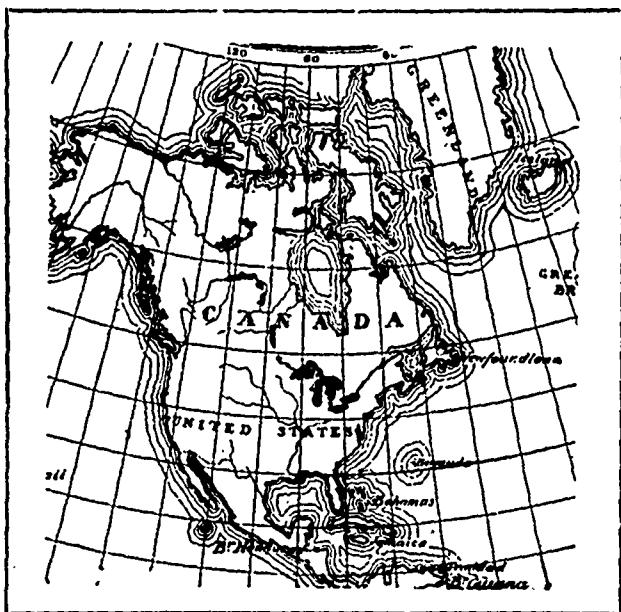
Safeguards Against Adulteration.

Adulteration is described by the authors of a recently-published work on the law and chemistry of food and drugs as a fine art which will soon be an exact science, those who practise it entering upon their work with a precise knowledge of the end they have in view, and with all that science and skill can do to help them in attaining that end. There may be no intention to defraud; the adulterant being sometimes added in infinitesimal pro-

portion. Even more insidious, however, in these days of "cutting" prices and small profits, is the temptation to buy wholesale what is "cheap," that is to say, low-priced, and retail it to customers at the price of a genuine article, irrespective of the fact that it is not known to be such. Bargains of this description are quite justifiable if the retail dealer examines what he has purchased and proved it to be what it is represented as being. On the other hand, if he finds himself the possessor of an inferior article, he may either offer it as such, at its true value, or utilize it in some legitimate manner.

But there can be no possible excuse for the sale of such an imperfect article as a perfect one. The sale would be a deliberate fraud if effected after examination, and if no examination took place the carelessness that allowed an unfair profit to be gained would be criminal in a lesser degree only. Pharmacists in particular should carefully protect themselves against the risk of appearing careless in respect of the purity of all medicines passing through their hands. Nothing can palliate the offence of dealing in impure and ineffective drugs and chemicals because they are low-priced, not even the plea that otherwise it will be impossible to compete with a neighboring grocer or general store. The means at the pharmacist's command are such that he can ensure the purity and quality of everything of a medicinal nature he deals in, and he may thus be enabled at times to satisfy himself that something offered at an unusually low rate is really genuine and worth taking into stock. But, above all things, he should decline to prostitute himself and his art for gain. Recognition of integrity may be slow in coming, and honesty of purpose may seem of little avail, but the good of humanity will, nevertheless, be served, and compensation, though perhaps long-delayed, cannot fail to come in the end.

—*Pharmaceutical Journal.*



larger than the United States, nearly thirty times as large as Great Britain and Ireland, and lacks only 237,000 square miles of being as large as the whole continent of Europe.

In pharmaceutical matters, we believe Canada quite holds her own with other countries. The eight provinces which constitute our Dominion have each their own pharmacy laws, being, in most essential points, identical with each other, and, in all, the student is required to pass his examination before a council of the pharmaceutical association of the province. The standard, in all cases, is a high one, and our colleges of pharmacy lose nothing in comparison with those of our neighbors or of Europe.

In pharmaceutical journalism, modesty forbids our saying too much of ourselves,

portions to act as a preservative, as in the case of boric or salicylic acid, or to meet the exigencies of trade, as when butter or peas are artificially colored. Accidental admixture may also occur through lack of care in manufacturing or storing. In any case, by the sale of such goods an offence is committed in the eyes of the law, and it is of the greatest importance to honest traders that they should adopt such precautions as will enable them to avoid unwittingly committing offences against the laws dealing with the subject. This is the more necessary as the effects of a conviction may be exceedingly injurious, and even fatal, to a man's business prospects.

There is much force in the contention that competition and the mania for cheapness, regardless of real value, are at the bottom of the evil. A dishonest tradesman may be attracted, or a weak one tempted, by the facility with which profits may be increased by a possibly harmless addition to some comparatively expensive

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Gum copal	350 parts.
Benzoin	30 "
Balsam of tolu	30 "
Ether	1000 "
Oil of thyme	20 "
Alpha-naphthol	3 "

—*National Druggist.*

Bioxide of sodium, treated with an alcoholic solution of hydrochloric acid, gives a highly oxygenous substance (known as trioxigen), which makes a valuable bleaching agent. Heated to 100° C. it gives off oxygen; dissolved in water, a highly oxygenated liquid is obtained.