

CORRESPONDENCE.

New York Letter.

NEW YORK, OCT. 11TH, 1890.

In proportion to its numbers of the craft, or its membership of the American Pharmaceutical Association, the numbers from our city do not make as good a showing as they should at its meetings, but there was a fair representation at the meeting at Old Point Comfort a month or so ago. At the meeting about 400 in all were present, making it rank among the most successful in numbers, while in its papers and proceedings it had unusual excellence. We noted but one representative from her Majesty's possessions, Mr. J. A. Clark, the President of the Ontario College of Pharmacy, and we think he could ably tell his associates of the excellence and interest of the gathering.

More recently, the National Wholesale Druggists' Association met at Washington, and the proportion of New Yorkers present was a very large percentage of its membership in that city and state. It was an excellent meeting in spirit, in work, in accomplishment, and if some way can be evolved through its joint committee to elucidate the vexed question of how to secure a better profit on proprietary articles, it will bring joy to the hearts of a vast proportion of the retail druggists. We noted the presence of two Montreal members of the craft, Charles Lyman and Thomas Reid.

The Colleges of Pharmacy are now in session, most of them having opened "with full houses" during the past two weeks. The question of pharmaceutical education is one that should receive this practical solution, that every graduate of an honorable college of pharmacy should have the preference of employment, other things being equal. He should have the preference in point of salary, as he has given time and money to obtain his information, while those that briefly cram for the express purpose of passing boards of pharmacy, are very frequently not the possessors of a lasting knowledge, that makes them the trusty and responsible aids they should be. Boards of pharmacy are good in their way, but they are in many instances outwitted in the apparent knowledge of their applicants, and many a one obtains his certificate of proficiency who utterly fails to sustain this reputation behind the counter when face to face with an emergency, or even some every day experience.

The late troubles of the wholesale druggists as to what will be the outcome of the tariff question is now settled for a time, and, as we review the schedules, it seems as if it will not make a very serious difference in values on the general run of the articles that are enumerated among drugs and chemicals. The annoyance to the merchant here and producers at home and abroad, is that our legislators will forever keep either tinkering at the tariff

or threatening to do so. It does seem as if on some foreign products there has been an unwise increase in duties, at least this increase has been so great on some articles as to appear unjust to both producer abroad and consumer here that some pet industry may reap a benefit that is disproportionate.

Retail drug business in our city is now more active than during the summer months, and there is and will be an increasing amount of business each month until early spring, unless we are again *favoured* (I) with *la grippe* or some mild epidemic. New stores are opening in many of the rapidly building up districts, though occasionally some one more venturesome than his fellows starts in an already well supplied neighborhood. Among the new stores is one on Madison avenue at 57th street, opened by one quite well known in pharmaceutical circles, Max J. Brienbach, which for beauty is specially attractive and for completeness of detail is quite unparalleled. A place for everything, and in this special instance everything means a great deal, for there is in my experience no one store that I have ever seen that has so great a variety of conveniences for the accomplishment of the work that the pharmacist may be called upon to perform. We specially call the attention of any of your readers who may visit our city and urge them to visit this establishment where they will be sure of a hearty welcome from its proprietor or his worthy assistants.

By the way, why would it not be a good idea if the pharmacists of British North America would unite and form an organization somewhat akin to that of the American Pharmaceutical Association? There is material enough to secure a goodly organization and excellent results for science and to improve the business end of it too.

A Process for Purifying Alcohol and Alcoholic Liquids in General.

According to this invention alcoholic liquids are freed from impurities by treatment with a basic tartrate followed by a hyposulphite (thiosulphate). Tartrate of potassium or sodium, or, preferably, the double salt known as Rochelle salt, may be used. Among the hyposulphites, those of barium and sodium have given excellent results. The alcoholic liquid, contained in a suitably closed vessel, is mixed with small quantities of the tartrate, being well agitated after each addition, until it reacts neutral or faintly alkaline to test paper. The impurities are now allowed to settle, which requires from a few hours to several days, according to circumstances; but in any case the operation is considerably hastened by the application of heat or by the action of light. Hyposulphite is now added in quantity equal to about one-third of the tartrate used. The liquid is well stirred and allowed to settle, when the clear portion may be drawn off and rectified in the

usual way. This process is applicable to all kinds of alcoholic liquids, notably wines and rum, the flavor of which is greatly improved. Engl. Pat. 12,186 (issued to P. C. Rousseau and others). - *J. Soc. Chem. Ind.*

Situations Wanted.

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