

Canadian Druggist

WM. J. DYAS, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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Congratulations.

We are pleased to extend our congratulations to Prof. Shuttleworth who has been honored by being elected Fellow of the Chemical Society of England, thus enabling him to add the distinctive letters F. C. S. to his name.

Such an honor, conferred upon a Canadian, has in this instance been well placed and furnishes an additional link of connective relationship between co-operative laborers in the old world and the new.

Druggists as Opticians.

It has long been recognized as a fact that the science of optics is one of those branches which only an intelligent person can be entrusted to practice, and, while not wishing to claim that druggists have a monopoly of intelligence, yet the very fact that the educational standard to which they are obliged to attain before embarking on their profession is quite equal to that of any of the other professions, points to the pharmacist as the one of all classes, combining as he does the tradesman with the professional man, to whom should be entrusted a matter of so much importance to the present as well as to future generations, viz., the improvement and care of the eyesight.

It undoubtedly is only a question of time when governments must insist on the proper qualification of those who undertake this matter of optics and we would strongly advise our drug friends to take advantage of what opportunities of instruction they can and not let this branch of business so peculiarly adapted to them and one which commends a good margin of profit, slip into the hands of other tradesmen. It should be borne in mind that the old slipshod way of fitting glasses will not do in the present day, and the man who thoroughly masters this science and devotes proper attention to it, will find it one of the most profitable parts of his business both directly and indirectly.

A "Preparation."

A recent issue of *The Pharmaceutical Journal and Transactions* contains an article entitled "What is the pharmaceutical meaning of the term preparation," where it is plainly laid down as an incontestable fact that all medicinal compounds, whether they are official in the Pharmacopoeia or are mixtures of any drugs or medicinal agents, when they contain any articles named in the poison schedule, are subject to the provisions of the Pharmacy Act of Great Britain as affecting the registration and sale of poisons. If this contention is right, and we see no reason why it should not be, the various Pharmacy

Acts in Canada will bear of the same interpretation, and any articles named in the schedule as "poisons," whether sold separately or in any mixture whatever, are subject to the same requirements as to sale and also the liability of the vendor.

Ontario College of Pharmacy.

The semi-annual meeting of the Council of the Ontario College of Pharmacy will be held in the College building on Tuesday, Aug. 7th, for the purpose of granting certificates of competency and for general business in connection with the College.

Poisons at Wholesale.

Under the above heading the *Pharmaceutical Era* calls attention to a matter which has also been the subject of some newspaper controversy in this country regarding the unfairness to the retail trade as well as the insecurity to the general public from the handling of poisons, etc., by unqualified clerks in wholesale houses and by general dealers. The *Era* puts the matter very plainly as follows:

"It is difficult to buy a grain of poison but easy to get an ounce. That is, the retail druggist has to observe, more or less, the rigid restrictions in selling poisons, must register the sale, name of purchaser, etc., but at the wholesale druggist's the customer has no difficulty in obtaining whatever quantity he desires. Morphine and cocaine fiends know this and act accordingly. There is necessity for better legal regulation of the sale of poisons. The grocer can sell Paris green and poison-containing patent medicines at his own sweet will. Laws should be enacted calculated to confine the traffic in all medicines and poisonous chemicals in legitimate channels. Do not make exceptions of the wholesaler, grocer and peddler. Boards and associations of pharmacy can do much to bring it about."

Twelve Thousand Prescriptions.

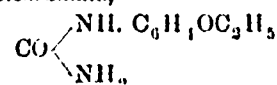
In Prof. Martindale's "Analysis of Twelve Thousand Prescriptions," for a copy of which we are indebted to the publisher, H. K. Lewis, 130 Gower St., London, W. C., statistics are given as to the frequency in which several preparations have been designated in prescriptions dispensed in six different pharmacies in various portions of the United Kingdom. Spiritus Chloroformi holds the lead, it occurring 1117 times, then comes Tinct. Nucis Vomica 991 times, Glycerinum 875 times, Sodii Bicarbonas 807, Syrup Aurantii 796, Spts. Ammoniae Aromaticus 675, Quinine Sulphas 598, the lowest on the list being Succus Limonis, 30 times. Of the *unofficial* preparations, Ung. Hydrarg. Oxid. Flav. occurs 29 times and Tinctura Laxativa, the lowest, 10 times. These statistics do not include the sales of articles by retail, but merely the prescriptions of physicians. The work should

prove a useful aid to the compilers of the proposed new pharmacopoeia, indicating, as it does, the changes which occur in the advances made in medical treatment, and also pointing out those preparations which have become almost obsolete.

Dulcin.

Dulcin is an artificial sweetening agent, 200 times sweeter than cane sugar, according to comparative tests by Prof. Zuntz. It has a pure and agreeable sweet taste; and as physiological experiments have proved unanimously that the amount necessary for use will not cause disorder in the human or animal organism, Dulcin can—similar to saccharin—be used advantageously in place of cane sugar.

Chemically Dulcin is described as paraphenetolcarbamid,



It was first produced *by Berlinerblau some years ago. But J. D. Riedel, of Berlin, was the first to produce Dulcin by perfected process at a reasonable cost. This process, patented in Germany and other civilized countries, consists practically in bringing urea to act upon hydrochlorate paraphenetidin or Diparaphenetolcarbamid at high temperature under pressure.

Dulcin is supplied by J. D. Riedel in the form of colorless needles or as a fine white powder, and also—mixed with mannitol for the use of diabetics—in 0.25 g. tablets, each containing 0.025 g. Dulcin or the equivalent of a 5 g. lump of cane sugar.

Pure Dulcin melts at 173 to 174° C.; its solubility in water is difficult; one part in 800 parts of water at 15° C.; it is soluble in 50 parts hot water, and readily in 25 parts 90 per cent. ether.

Dulcin can be boiled in water without decomposing, and will not escape in the steam. If Dulcin is heated beyond its melting point, ammonia is eliminated and paraphenetolcarbamid changes to diparaphenetolcarbamid.

The tests for purity of dulcin are found in its melting point, the colorless crystals, and the property of dissolving without coloration in cold concentrated sulphuric acid.

Dulcin is a very staple product, and can be utilized for all purposes as a perfect substitute for cane sugar.

"СИНЧОВА" sends a copy of a recipe which was handed him: to fill. He thinks it must have originated with "Bill Nye":

Equal parts
Tinct. of opheum
" champerre
" red pepper
" rubarb
" pepement

Dose, 20 drops.

*H. Thoms: Ueber Dulcin. Berichte d. pharm. Ges., 1893, No. 5.