

## Correspondence.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for the opinions of correspondents. Correspondents must in all cases send name and address, not necessarily for publication.

### Quiz Classes at the O.C.P.

Editor CANADIAN DRUGGIST:

SIR,—The attendance of one of my apprentices at the Ontario College of Pharmacy has brought to my attention a state of affairs which I consider to be highly reprehensible, viz.: that of the establishment of pay quiz classes, whereby, in addition to their stipulated salaries some of the professors are enabled to extort from the young men an additional five or ten dollars apiece.

I have yet to learn that these classes are officially recognized by the Educational Committee of the Council or by the council itself, and for that reason I consider the proceeding a most selfish and unwarranted abuse of the college curriculum.

If it is proper to have quiz classes upon a remuneration basis then the council should pay for them; if not, then the council should stop them. Where the practice prevails in American colleges the faculty controls the charge made, but it has been reserved for Canada to set an example of private enterprise of this sort.

Our young men pay in the regular way a large enough sum for college tuition, and do not deserve to be bled further. In but rare cases can they afford the additional tax, and but rarely do they come with the expectation of being asked to pay it.

I trust you will be good enough to publish this, so that public attention may be directed to a state of affairs which has ultimately come to be a scandal in our college. Yours truly,

ONTARIO DRUGGIST.

### "The Boys" Remember Us.

A very pleasing feature of journalism is its appreciation by its readers. To feel that the constituency you reach endorses your efforts and is in close touch with your opinions, and the general contents of your publication, is always a source of gratification to the editor. No less gratifying is the knowledge that the drug clerks and assistants of Canada are quite as highly appreciative as are the principals. We are in constant receipt of letters from graduates and clerks who have gone to the United States and elsewhere, enclosing their subscriptions and asking for the CANADIAN DRUGGIST in order, as one of them expresses it, "to still keep in touch with Canadian pharmacy." Particularly has this been the case within the last few months, and we shall always be pleased to hear from "the boys" of Canadian pharmacy wherever situated.

### The Indigo Crop.

The first forecast of the indigo crop for the present year, issued by the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, North-Western Provinces and Oudh, states that the area sown with indigo is not exactly known in July; and the extent of its cultivation is, therefore, judged from a special return received from the Patwaris and from the returns published by the Canal Department. The area reported by Patwaris as sown with indigo this year up to the middle of April is 266,614 acres; and that reported to be irrigated from canals up to the end of May is 234,000 acres, as compared with 290,802 and 283,203 acres respectively in the corresponding period of the last year. The decrease in the former area is 8 per cent. and in the latter 17 per cent. The drop has occurred chiefly in the canal districts. It has been attributed partly to low prices obtained in last year's sales and partly to the sowing of food grains having been encouraged in consequence of the famine; it is also partly due, no doubt, to the general tightness of capital among the smaller planters. In the districts of Budaun, Allahabad, Azamgarh, and in the Benares Division, where indigo is grown entirely from well irrigation, there has been some increase in the area placed under indigo.

### Price of Glycerine.

Soapmakers who, during the year 1896, were receiving from 13 to 14½ cents per pound for glycerine are now forced to accept from 9 to 9½ cents. This is a drop in price of over 30 per cent., and the happy dream which the trade was so pleasantly enjoying has thus been rudely disturbed. The importations of glycerine in 1896 were enormous, and, as a consequence, large stocks were held by the refiners; hence, sales of soapmakers' glycerine could only be made by conceding to the offered prices.

It is difficult to see any chance for a return to profitable prices. The only hopeful conditions at present are, first, the falling off in importations and, secondly, probable business activity. During the ten months ending May 31, 1897, the importations of glycerine amounted to 12,358,459 pounds, a falling off from the importations made during the same period of 1896 of 6,326,501 pounds.—*Oil, Paint and Drug Reports.*

### "Flooded with Letters."

"Flooded with letters." Printer made it "quarter of" instead of "quarter off cost." This is from a subscriber who last month advertised a business for sale. Moral: If you want to be "flooded with letters" in reply to advertisements, always use the CANADIAN DRUGGIST.

**ARTIFICIAL GUM ARABIC.**—Owing to the ever-climbing price of first-class gum arabic, a German house is manufacturing a substitute for mucilage of acacia which, it is claimed, acts as a complete surrogate for that made from the natural gum. The process of manufacture is as follows: To 50 parts of flax seed and an equal quantity of water, add, a little at a time, and with constant stirring, 40 parts of sulphuric acid, and boil from three to four hours. Filter the liquid and precipitate the filtrate by adding sufficient (from 3 to 4 volumes) alcohol. The precipitate is washed with alcohol and dried, making a colorless, tasteless gum, very soluble in water, and possessing, as it is claimed, all the qualities of gum arabic. The alcohol is recovered by distillation. The adhesive qualities of the mucilage made with this gum are quite as great as those of gum arabic.—*Nat. Druggist.*

**THE X RAYS.**—From experiments made with the X rays upon consumptive cases, as a cure for the disease that is, the result would appear to have been so far satisfactory. The experimentalists have found that in thirty sittings the X rays have favorably affected, and almost healed lungs affected with acute tuberculosis, no other medicinal agent being employed at the time.

The Toronto Pharmacal Company is rapidly pushing its way to the front. Mr. Knowles, their popular western representative, has recently made a trip to the Maritime Provinces, and reports a satisfactory opening of trade for the house. The members of the firm, as well as the travellers, are all druggists of lengthy experience, and the knowledge they thus possess of the needs of the trade gives them a decided advantage in conducting a business of so special a character. Their advertisement appears on another page.

**PARA-CHLORO-PHENOL PASTE.**—An ointment prepared from equal parts of vaseline, lanolin, starch, and para-chlorophenol. Used in lupus.

**FOR IN-GROWING TOENAIL.**—A French writer advises the use of a warm 40 per cent. solution of caustic potash. The nail becomes so soft that it can be scraped or cut away.

The quantity of perfumery imported into Russia increases enormously year by year. Russian statistics of trade are always extremely behindhand. The idea of producing the details of a year's trade in a week or so after the close of a year after the fashion of our own Board of Trade would make the Russian official feel faint. But in 1892 the value taken in at Russian ports amounted to 490,000 roubles, in 1893 this had grown to 539,000 roubles, in 1894 to 672,000 roubles, and in 1895 to 713,000 roubles. Russia is evidently worth keeping an eye on as regards the perfumery trade.