

The attention of the representatives in both Houses of Parliament should be directed by our members to the Act for the curtailment of the sale of habit-forming drugs—opium, heroin, codeine, cocaine and morphia—which was enacted in Washington recently. The above-mentioned drugs, together with all like preparations, are withdrawn from sale except under very restrictive conditions, which, if carried out in the spirit of the Act, will tend to minimize the evil, if not to wipe it out altogether.

“No person or company may sell one of these articles, except under license of the Bureau of Internal Revenue. The consumer of the dangerous drugs must present either a prescription or an order written by himself, for the drug in question, which order calls for a full description of the purchaser, including age, color of eyes, occupation, etc., and is later examined and reported upon by a government inspector. The sale of the drugs, in fact, is made so irksome to both parties in it, that it is expected that the drug victim, or the possible drug victim, will shrink from the red tape and the prospect of exposure which the law has provided for drug buyers and users.” It is stated that the result of the passage of this law already is that every institution for the treatment of the victims of the drug habit, is crowded with patients who would rather be freed from its curse, than attempt to satisfy their cravings under the difficulties provided by the act. Our own laws in regard to the sale of similar drugs may be improved with advantage to the inhabitants of Canada, and the results of the passage of this act in the United States should be carefully noticed with this in view. I trust that you will individually keep your member posted so that a further important step in preventive medicine may be gained.

The subject which I have chosen as the main topic of this year's Presidential Address is “The Evolution of the Specialist in Oto-Laryngology,” yet what I have to say will apply equally perhaps to any of the so-called specialties. The subject conveniently arranges itself under four heads:

- (a) The definition of a specialist;
- (b) The need for his existence;
- (c) The training required;
- (d) The nature of his relationship to the general practitioner.

In developing this subject, I shall require to use some plain speech, because between the degrading, but alluring effect of the establishment of certain polyclinics or postgraduate schools, where to quote the Carnegie Report, “the training is of a practical, not