

which he experimentally knows nothing as to their constituents. That the druggist as at present situated, by law or custom, is surrounded with many difficulties, we readily admit, and that many of them are anxious for the elevation of the business, we know as well, and to such the public owe a debt of gratitude. For instance, in the recent developments of the Druggists' Circular, regarding Dr. Buckland's Scotch oat's "essence," Dr. B. F. Davenport, State analyst, of Massachusetts, thus replied to the circular: "I have analyzed a sealed bottle of Scotch oats essence, double strength, and find that each fluid ounce contains one-quarter of a grain of sulphate of morphine." Since this report was given, Dr. Davenport has continued his investigations with this result: "The 'essence' is sold in three grades of strength. No. 1 contains little or no morphine at all, No. 2 considerable, and in No. 3 there are from 200 to 250 drops of laudanum, or about two teaspoonfuls of laudanum to every wineglass. This is enough to kill an adult not addicted to the use of opium, and two or three drops have been known to be a death dose to an infant, and in the fact that this medicine is freely advertised to be 'beneficial to infant and octogenarian,' the wickedness of the business may be seen without explanation." Of alcohol, Dr. Davenport found the "essence" to contain from 30 per cent. upwards to 45 per cent., the greater in the \$5 bottles.

Further, Dr. Davenport reported during the past year to the State Board: "I have to report upon twenty samples of so called opium cures which have been obtained from their proprietors. They have all been tested for the presence of morphine, and they have all responded to the usual reactions therefor, except the 'Keeley's Double Chloride of Gold Cure.' This one, however, gave no reaction for the presence of even a trace of gold therein. The cures were all uniformly obtained as for one who had acquired the habit of taking them, for an opium eater, very moderate quantity of only one grain of morphine per day. It was expected, as proved to be the case, that the cures for even such a mild case would contain enough morphine to furnish unmistakable evidence of its presence, if it contained any at all. As the point sought to be attained was simply the presence or absence, in the opium cure itself, of the morphine, or the active principle of the opium, the very thing for which

it was offered as a cure, the several preparations were uniformly tested only in regard to this one particular, and not as to their other constituents."

We confess that the extent of the evils arising from the indiscriminate use of drugs, whether sold over the counter, or in the physician's office, cannot be exactly measured, nor we think even adequately comprehended; but if our calling attention to them shall cause the Ontario Medical Association to appoint a committee to invite co-operation with the Ontario College of Pharmacy, to investigate fully and honestly this whole subject, we cannot but believe that immeasurable good will be the result. Says Garrick in his prologue to "She Stoops to Conquer,"

"All is not gold that glitters,  
Pleasures seem sweet but prove a glass of bitters,  
When ignorance enters folly is at hand,  
Learning is better far than house or land . . .  
A doctor aims this night to show his skill,  
To cheer her heart and give her muscles motion;  
He in five draughts prepared presents a potion:  
A kind of magic charm—for be assured  
If you will swallow it the maid is cured;  
This truth he boasts, will boast it while he lives,  
No poisonous drugs are mixed with what he gives."

And we are much inclined to the belief that if the present evil goes on developing, Goldsmith's comedy will be a safer potion than most of our nostrums, even if backed by a parson's credentials.

#### THE FIRST CONVOCATION OF THE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL FACULTY.

NO matter of what school or college, every physician having uppermost in his heart the elevation and dignity of his own profession, must recognize with pleasure the first systematic effort which, apart from the examinations of the Medical Council, has been made to give to medical education in Ontario, a provincial character, by the establishment of a Teaching Faculty in connection with the University of Toronto. That the idea has taken possession of many of the foremost men of the profession was abundantly witnessed in the interest taken in the Convocation for granting medical degrees and scholarships, held on 25th May. The large and fashionable gathering in old Convocation Hall reminded University men of Commencement day, as, preceded by the badge of authority, the Senate and members of the various teaching staffs, mingled with which were many