

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.

Legitimate Protection to the Druggist.

Editor CANADIAN DRUGGIST:

SIR,—The law of Ontario gives the municipalities authority to levy a special tax on all fakirs, patent medicine vendors, etc., who travel, selling their preparations, either in the market place, on the street, or in halls in connection with concerts or shows.

A short time ago two enterprising men sold in a town in Canada over three hundred dollars' worth of their stuff, and all the town treasurer got was under five dollars, these men getting the best part of the market square for their purpose. Every druggist should see that a by-law is passed in his locality fixing the fee at a reasonable figure, say, from five to ten dollars a day.

We pay taxes; why should not the traveller? The fault is our own.

Now, this law has been on our statute book some years, and only a few places have passed the required by-law. Let those who can see no good in the efforts of the council to assist the trade look at home and see how much they have done to protect themselves.

Sept. 23rd, 1895.

ONTARIO.

Did Not Join the O.C.A.

Editor CANADIAN DRUGGIST:

SIR,—Although rather late, allow me to correct an error that your B.C. correspondent made in his letter, printed in the July number. He states there "that the B.C.P.A. had, at its recent meetings, decided to join the Ontario Chemists' Manufacturing Co." Now, sir, the B.C.P.A. never heard the name of the O.C. Manufacturing Co. mentioned at any of its meetings; therefore the paragraph referred to is anything but true. It is a fact that certain members of the B.C.P.A., in their ordinary business capacity, have taken shares in, and bought goods from, the O.C. Manufacturing Co., but this is totally outside of our association.

Our next council meeting takes place in Victoria on Sept. 19th.

The semi-annual examinations (preliminary, junior, and major), and the meetings of the Board of Examiners, take place on Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 9th and 10th. All applicants must notify the registrar and remit fees at least two weeks previously.

The drug business keeps dull, it being quite overdone in this province.

CHARLES NELSON,

Sec.-Registrar B.C.P.A.

Vancouver, B.C., Sept. 7th, 1895.

[This communication was received too late for the September issue.—ED. CANADIAN DRUGGIST.]

The Educational Question.

Editor CANADIAN DRUGGIST:

SIR,—In the last few issues of your paper some eminent writers have been discussing the drug trade, one an apprentice, of short experience, but exceedingly smart, supported by a friend from Guelph, advocating a long-time service, while the educational side is upheld by "A.M."

If you will allow me space in your paper, I would like to express my views on the subject of pharmacy.

Taking it from an educational standpoint, I do not know of any profession in which a person can have too much education, no matter what it is, and a person with good education is fit for any business in that line. I think pharmacy requires equally as good education as any other profession, and a great deal better than most of them.

Outside of a university course, I know of no other course where chemistry and botany are more minutely studied, and how can a person really understand those two subjects without having a good education? Thus I noticed, during my college course, that those having second-class certificates, although not any smarter than others, were able to get up their work with more ease, and take a higher percentage, than those who had only enough common education to, probably, pass the entrance examination to the high school. Therefore, I positively state that matriculation is beneficial, and should be made compulsory for pharmacy students as well as medical.

Regarding the apprenticeship, I think that three years would be sufficient. Any person that would not have a fair knowledge of the work in that time would himself or his employer be to blame. I think it should be on a much different scale from what it is now. The college course should be two years, and after the apprentice had served his first year with a good preceptor he should be familiar with all the drugs usually kept in a drug store, and have read a little about them. Then he should take his junior course of one year at college, and there he taught the introductory work, along with practical chemistry and pharmacy, as at present the older pharmacists are not up-to-date in the practical work and manufacturing of the various preparations; or, if so, they neglect to teach the same to their apprentices, so that they are allowed to go on doing work wrong for those three or four years, then sent to college to teach them to do it correctly. This may not be the case where they are with recent graduates of the Ontario College of Pharmacy. After their first year at college let them go back and put their thorough knowledge into execution in some store, and for the next two years go on reviewing and preparing for the next and final course. Then, and not before, will we have a thorough and lasting knowledge of pharmacy. So that I consider our long-term defender, "An Apprentice," is just a little

out in his ideas, and might some day meet with a preceptor with whom he would not like to be bound down for seven years.

In referring to the business itself, it is not those who are going into it that are to blame, but those who are now in it, your humble scribe included with all others. Why can we not devise some lasting, substantial means of protecting our trade, go hand in hand, and try to aid the council to do something in this direction? In the past couple of years there have been some bluffs made at it through the Ontario Parliament, but they did not amount to anything. Can we not get protection as well as the medical profession did? We go through a long apprenticeship and a hard course of study at college to secure our diploma, and otherwise start in business, and we are fined. Yet such firms as The T. Eaton Co., and others, can advertise and sell medicines at prices which we cannot buy them from wholesale dealers for. There are dozens of stores run under some doctor's name, merely for protection, and they have no more interest in them than if they had never seen them. Here, I claim, is where the trouble lies, and not with those going into the business; for, as a rule, they are quite eager to keep up the prices, as it has cost them a nice sum to get that far, and accordingly desire as high a standard as possible. Mc.

Queries and Answers.

"R. C.," Toronto, asks for formula for curry powder:

CURRY POWDER.

Coriander.....	2 oz.
Ginger.....	2 oz.
Capsicum.....	1½ oz.
Cardamom.....	4 dr.
Black Pepper.....	3 oz.
Cumin.....	2 oz.
Cloves.....	1 oz.
Turmeric.....	12 oz.

The different ingredients should be reduced to a very fine powder and all intimately mixed together

"Wellington" asks for a formula for

POISON FLY PAPER.

We submit this to our readers and ask for replies, also to an enquiry from "T.C.J." for an

ELIXIR OF KOLA.

With the object of interesting our readers in these queries, we submit the two latter, and trust that some brother druggist will give the desired information.

The editor desires to make this a source of mutual benefit for all progressive pharmacists, and hopes that they will be as willing to impart knowledge as to receive the benefit of that of their confrères.

Helcosol is the very awkward name bestowed by Dr. Negrescu upon bismuth pyrosubgallate.