

defendant's shop, had complained of a sore throat, and tightness at the chest and sleeplessness. The defendant looked at his throat, gave him some medicine, and charged 1s. for it. For the defence, section 28 of the Apothecaries' Act was chiefly relied on. A number of aged chemists were called to prove that to their knowledge such practices as that alleged by the prosecution were customary on the part of chemists and druggists before 1815. The judge, however, in summing up, said the business of a chemist and druggist was defined in the 28th section, and if chemists went beyond their rights before 1815, that did not justify them in doing so afterwards. He left it for the jury to say whether in the particular case before them the defendant had gone beyond the limits allowed him. The jury found for the defendant; but in this verdict they were no doubt influenced by the unsatisfactory evidence submitted for the plaintiffs. Other judges, in other cases, interpreted the law similarly. At the Birmingham County Court a prosecution of a chemist and druggist by the Apothecaries' Company was held over for two years pending the settlement of the last quoted case. The chemist had given certain medicine to a young woman suffering from weakness, and had charged her a shilling for it. He admitted having asked her certain questions, though there was some dispute respecting the whole of the alleged consultation. He was fined £20.

If the above interpretation of the distinction between an apothecary and a pharmaceutical chemist can be brought to bear upon our Act there is but little hope that any relief can be afforded those who overstep the line laid down in Justice Rose's decision; as but few druggists, if any, registered purely as pharmaceutical chemists, are likely to claim that they are apothecaries in the sense of professing to judge of internal disease by symptoms.

It is quite unnecessary for us to advise caution, as we are satisfied that all who review these cases will act in accordance with the letter of the law, even though the spirit of it may be somewhat strained by so doing.

### Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association.

The annual meeting of the Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association was held in Winnipeg, Feb. 21st.

Among those present were J. F. Howard, president, in the chair; E. Casselman, Emerson; G. W. McLaren, Morden; B. M. Canniff, Portage; N. H. Jackson, C. Flexon, Dr. Hutton, J. K. Hill, W. Campbell, Howard Mitchell, W. Pulford, E. S. Lightcap, Geo. Saddler, H. H. Casselman, H. E. Bletcher, and J. K. Strachan, registrar. The report of the council, dealing with the work of the association for the past year, the treasurer's and registrar's reports were read and adopted. The total membership of the association is 79, clerks 14, apprentices 28. Four

members have been removed from the register in consequence of removal from the province or other causes. The secretary was empowered to incur the necessary expense to procure evidence against persons violating the association's act. E. E. Lightcap and H. H. Casselman, having been appointed scrutineers, the ballot papers sent in were counted and resulted in the following being elected as council for the ensuing two years, viz.: J. C. Gordon, J. F. Howard, E. D. Martin, C. Flexon, W. R. Bartlett, B. M. Canniff and G. W. McLaren. During the counting of the ballots the president addressed the meeting, reviewing the work of the association, and congratulated the members on its satisfactory condition.

Dr. Hutton moved, seconded by Mr. Canniff, "That the Pharmaceutical Association of Manitoba offer for yearly competition, for general proficiency in the major examinations, a gold and silver medal, the gold medal to be given to the student obtaining the greatest number of marks, the percentage to be not less than ninety; the silver medal to be given to the student obtaining the next highest number of marks, provided such student takes not less than eighty per cent. of the total marks, the competition to date from the spring examinations of 1895, and to be open to students who have taken their full course in Manitoba. In case of a tie, the examining board to take into consideration the respective merits of the tying candidates, with reference to the neatness of the papers put in and the work done."

In moving this resolution, Dr. Hutton, in an interesting speech, pointed out the strong incentive to good work, the chance of winning the Association medals would be, and stated that he would be willing to offer a silver medal for the student obtaining the highest number of marks in materia medica, and Mr. Canniff, in supporting and seconding the resolution, also said he would be willing to offer a medal for the highest number of marks in any particular subject, probably chemistry. Mr. McLaren and others, having spoken in favor of the motion, it was put and carried.

The question of the association obtaining permanent suitable rooms, for the purpose of a laboratory, lecture and examination rooms, was discussed, and on motion of Mr. Canniff, seconded by Mr. McLaren, the matter was referred to a committee, consisting of the president, Mr. Flexon and Dr. Hutton, to wait on the medical college authorities and ascertain on what terms a room could be procured in the medical college building.

**CARBOL VASELINE.**—Vaseline is first rendered aseptic by prolonged heating to 120° C., and then mixed with carbolic acid. The mixture is poured whilst hot into metal tubes, which are hermetically sealed whilst at an elevated temperature. It is put forward as a good antiseptic salve.—*Apotheker Zeitung*.

### Pharmaceutical Association of the Province of Quebec.

#### Notice to Students.

The Semi-Annual Examination for Major and Minor Candidates will commence on Tuesday, April 17th, at 9.00 a. m., and will be held in the College of Pharmacy, 595 LaGauchetiere Street, Montreal. Candidates must file their application, duly certified, with the Registrar, on or before the 7th of April. Printed Regulations and Form of Application must be obtained from the Registrar, and be duly signed by the Applicant.

Candidates who have failed more than once in their Examinations will be required to pay the full Examination Fee.

The Council having instructed the Registrar to enforce the rule requiring from candidates for examination, ten days notice, prior to the date fixed for the examinations, no application will be accepted after the 7th day of April.

E. Munn,  
Secty.-Registrar.  
595 LaGauchetiere Street.

Montreal, March 8th, 1894.

### New Salts of Berberine.

It is well known that commercial crystallized sulphate of berberine dissolves with difficulty in cold water and alcohol, in fact is almost insoluble in both these liquids. Merck, by increasing the quantity of sulphuric acid used in its preparation, has introduced a sulphate which is easily soluble in cold water and in alcohol. It is now on the market as "*soluble crystalline sulphate of berberine*." It can be taken in half-grain doses six times daily. According to Schmidt (See *Arch. der Pharm.*, 1890), free berberine rapidly absorbs carbonic acid, and as met with in commerce usually contains much carbonate. Merck attempted to introduce a method for the preparation of the free alkaloid, which shall give a preparation as free as possible from CO<sub>2</sub>. He has concluded that the best method is by precipitation of the sulphate of berberine with barium hydrate in just sufficient quantity to precipitate the whole of the sulphuric acid, and afterwards evaporating the filtered solution, without the employment of heat, in glass vessels. But even prepared in this way, CO<sub>2</sub> is absorbed. Hence Merck suggests that free berberine should be superseded by the carbonate, which is easily crystallized from water or alcohol, and is of quite definite composition. If the pure alkaloid is required, it is easy to prepare it from this salt by heating it to 100° C. in a current of hydrogen.—*Journal de Pharm. d'Avvers*.

AN English formula for a rubber substitute is 10 parts of paraffin, 1 part bitumen, 2 parts India-rubber, and this in spite of the fact that rubber manufacturers the world over are afraid paraffin.