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The Ontario Druggists' Tax.

THE Registrar of the Ontario College has sent out the usual list of names of members who, on June 15th, were entitled to practice as druggists in this Province. The list comprises those who have paid the annual fee for the current year; and, if the law were not practically a dead letter, all those whose names are not thus included might be proceeded against and fined. This journal has for years been sent to between 800 and 900 persons whose names are on the College register and who conduct business in Ontario. The number of those on the Registrar's list who have paid the fee is 259. This means that between 450 and 500 persons have so far paid no attention to the demands of the College, though the fee became due on May 1st.

This reluctance is, under the circumstances, scarcely to be wondered at, as the fee of \$4 is considered an imposition, and it is rumored that many druggists will refuse to be longer made subject to this unnecessary tax, so that if prosecutions are attempted—a very unlikely possibility—their great number would attract the attention of the legislature to the matter and lead to the reduction of the fee to an amount, say \$1, commensurate with the benefit conferred. The law now says that the sum must not exceed \$4, but it may be as much less as the Council of the College may decide.

The vigorous efforts made some time ago to induce the Council to reduce the fee were altogether ineffectual, and as it is plain that nothing

is to be expected from this quarter, we are not surprised that druggists seek to appeal to a higher authority, who will see that justice is done.

The plea that \$800 per annum was required in support of this journal is met by a recent circular issued by the Registrar, in which the statement is made that the College will not be responsible for any publication not authorized by that body. In this case the equivalent of this sum is taken from the members, and they can certainly claim that their fee shall be correspondingly reduced.

There can, however, be no question but that the fee may be further reduced, and perhaps brought down to the sum first mentioned. It is true that this would only yield \$800 or \$900 per year, while the Registrar's salary is \$1,000. If that official's time is in great part occupied by the teaching department, the expense should not be saddled on members who get no benefit from it. The registration of students, twice a year, only however necessitates two or three days' work a year, and this could easily be performed by the faculty, as was formerly the case in the Ontario College, and is now so with the various medical schools. The actual routine work in connection with the registration of members, and the sending out circulars and notices, was formerly considered well paid by the established salary of \$600 per annum. The recent increase to \$1,000 has met with very unfavorable comment, and it seems very questionable whether, in view of the economizing spirit of the times, and the decreasing income of the College, this unaccountable and unpopular liberality can be maintained.

The Cruttenden Case.

FROM a report in another part of this number, it will be seen that the Ontario Council at last took action in this case, and brought Mr. Cruttenden to court for keeping open shop and selling poison illegally. As the Act says that the name of every legal vendor of poison must be on the register, and as the defendant was not so enrolled, and the sale of the poison was acknowledged, the magistrate could not do other than convict. He did not, however, impose a fine, but merely deferred sentence.