

by legal enactments, as to very fairly protect us in the practice of our profession. Doubtless the time will come when our population, being denser, it will be found necessary to further amend the Pharmacy Act so as to confine the sale of all drugs and medicines to properly trained licentiates of pharmacy. Neither in England or the United States have pharmacists as yet succeeded in obtaining such legislation. Taking it for all in all, the Pharmacy Act as it at present stands, barring a little ambiguity, is as satisfactory as we can at present hope for.

Last year in my annual address I drew attention to the necessity of moving with great caution in attempting to obtain further amendments, and also with regard to taking legal action against grocers and general storekeepers for infringements of the Pharmacy Act, and I am thoroughly convinced of the necessity of reiterating that advice, more especially in view of the disastrous defeat of the Ontario College of Pharmacy in their recent attempt to amend their Act. I would strongly urge the incoming council of this association to hesitate before committing the Act which we at present have to the tender mercies of the Legislature for the sake of a few more or less important amendments. "Better to bear the ills we have than rush to others we know not of." The Ontario papers agree in stating that a deep feeling has been excited against the pharmacists of that province in consequence of the far-reaching effects on other businesses of the proposed amendments of the Ontario College, and they go so far as to call it an effort to legalize monopoly and extortion. The patent medicine men and general storekeepers with their wealth and political influence on one side, and the medical men with their numerous representatives in the Ontario Legislature on the other, have proved too much for the not very united efforts of the pharmacists. The sequel to this ill-digested attempt at legislation is, that certain rights previously possessed by the Ontario pharmacists have been withdrawn, notably the right to sell 6 oz. of spirits without a doctor's order, and the changing of the law relating to the sale of Paris green, so that this dangerous chemical may now be sold without any registration whatever by all classes of dealers. Strange to say, this amendment was submitted to the Legislature by a doctor.

Thus, in its attempt to obtain further privileges for the pharmacists of Ontario, the Ontario College of Pharmacy has not only been obliged to withdraw its Bill, but owing to the determined opposition it met with, the pharmacists are in a worse position now than they were before. Let us in this province rest and be thankful for a while, until public opinion is educated up to further progress.

The prize of wealth or even of an assured competency in old age falls to the lot of very few amongst those who embrace the profession of pharmacy.

Hard work, ever-increasing anxiety, and long hours (in my opinion unnecessarily long hours) are the fate of the pharmacist, and I am sorry to say the worry attending the business has been very materially increased of late years by the flood of new preparations, some of them of very doubtful merit, inordinately puffed and perseveringly introduced to the medical profession by manufacturing pharmacists. Dispensing chemists have now to keep in stock a full line of pills, both sugar-coated and gelatine, of at least four different manufacturers, while the various elixirs, pepsines, pancreatines, wines and syrups are a legion in themselves, to say nothing of the expensive French specialties so frequently ordered. How any pharmacist with a moderate stock manages to fill all the prescriptions brought to him is a mystery which it is as impossible to solve as that still greater mystery which enables the manufacturers' agent to so successfully hoodwink the well-educated physician. If the present craze for ready-made compounds and specialties with trade-marked names does not soon cease the art of prescribing will be lost, and the pharmacopœia will be a thing of the past.

The question of the examinations, both preliminary, minor and major, is a matter about which the members of council should endeavor to obtain the fullest information. Articles on this extremely difficult subject are continually appearing in all the leading scientific journals and monthly magazines, and I know of no subject about which such contradictory opinions are advanced. We are all interested in finding out the best method of accurately gauging the qualifications of the examined.

I have during the past year received several private letters relating to our own examinations, both preliminary, minor and major, but as the majority of them were either from the parents of the candidates or from the candidates themselves, you may readily believe that the reasoning contained in them is considerably biased. With regard to the preliminary examinations, I am strongly of opinion that one teacher from the Catholic and another from the Protestant Normal Schools should be asked to fill the position of examiners in Montreal, and also the same in Quebec. There has always been a difficulty in getting men from the ranks of our practical pharmacists to take the position of preliminary examiners, and it is self-evident that men engaged daily in teaching are better qualified for the position than men who have left college some years. With regard to the major and minor examiners, the best men for the purpose are those who are daily engaged in the practice of pharmacy. The council must see to it that none but men specially qualified for the position, and of the highest character are appointed.

There are some points with regard to the preliminary examinations which deserves to be noted; for instance, the majority of the candidates who present themselves before the preliminary board of examiners are young men who have passed some