

CANADIAN PHARMACEUTICAL JOURNAL AND PHARMACAL GAZETTE

VOL. XXXI.

TORONTO AND MONTREAL, NOVEMBER, 1897.

No. 4

ESTABLISHED 1868.

Canadian Pharmaceutical Journal

—AND—

PHARMACAL GAZETTE

ISSUED MONTHLY.

EDITOR J. E. MORRISON
BUSINESS MANAGER G. E. GIBBARD

Subscription, \$1.00 per Year.

Communications bearing on the text to be addressed to Editor,
P.O. Box 683, Montreal.

All copy for publication must be sent in by the 20th of the
month.

New Advertisements and changes received up to the 25th
or 20th if proofs are required.

Advertising Rates sent on application.

Address all communications on business

CANADIAN PHARMACEUTICAL JOURNAL
287 King St. West, Toronto, Ont.

THE PHYSICIAN AND PROPRIETARY MEDICINES.

The paper read by Dr. Fotheringham at the recent B.M.A. meeting, which we publish in this issue, is one which should be carefully perused by every physician and pharmacist. The sentiments expressed with regard to the flood of specialties now on the market will appeal to every druggist as being eminently fitting to the occasion.

There can be no doubt that the art of prescribing, and the knowledge of *materia medica* and therapeutics, are gradually becoming beyond the reach of the average physician, since all the labour of prescribing has been taken out of his hands by the enterprising manufacturer, who puts into the hands of the physicians ready-made prescriptions to suit any and all cases.

But it is particularly the relations between the pharmacist and physician that are of most interest to us. Dr. Fotheringham says: "When we specify the name of any maker we might, so far as the proper function of the chemist is concerned, just as well have the prescribed article sold at the grocer's, as the chemist's function becomes purely mechanical, and by this habit, we are assisting in placing ourselves more fully in the hands of the manufacturers, and in killing off our best assistant,

the retail chemist." Again: "What I wish to point out, is that the interest of the physician and his patients are usually more nearly identical with those of the retailer than with those of the large manufacturer, and that while in regard to certain preparations we cannot dispense with the services of the wholesale manufacturer, we need not, therefore, transfer our whole patronage to him and force the retail chemist to be merely a handler of the goods of his richer rival." This is sound common sense, but, unfortunately, many physicians do not see it in the same light, with the result that they are simply tools in the hands of manufacturers, and have lost all right to the name of physicians.

There is no doubt that much of the advances in therapeutics in recent years, is due to the enterprise of certain manufacturing houses by the introduction of new drugs, upon which they have spent large sums of money; but there is one class of concerns which prey upon the gullibility and ignorance of physicians—concerns which, by their push and enterprise, have foisted worthless or simple mixtures of well-known drugs upon the profession, as wonderful "coal tar compounds of the benzene series," ammoniated, phosphorated, and various other high-sounding titles, the basis of all of which is simply acetanilid with ammonium carbonate, etc., which are valuable only to the manufacturers; or the host of preparations ending in "ine" or "ol," sold with labels on which appear so-called formula specially designed for the purpose of misleading the physician ignorant enough to prescribe them. These are the preparations to which physicians should give a wide berth, and the sooner this matter is taken up and acted upon by medical societies the better it will be for medicine in general.

THE TIME FOR ACTION.

The announcement is made that the Ontario Legislature is called to meet on Nov. 30th. Now what are you doing to help yourself in the matter of legislation? How many druggists have interviewed their local representative and interested him in the requirements of the profession? The Government are in a mood to be reasonable with pharmacists, and we ask no more. Already enquiries have been addressed to leading druggists by the department, as to what defects exist in the