

the possession of an Act of Incorporation, the affairs of the Society will have assumed a more settled shape.

This decision of the Committee seemed rather a disappointment to the members present, and a fresh committee was suggested.

The motion for changing the night of meeting, of which notice had been given, was brought up, and after discussion was adopted unanimously.

The Chairman said that the next subject for the consideration of the Society, was the question of Lectures for the coming season. He said that last Winter the Society had expended some hundred and fifty dollars for the purpose, and out of the many who should have availed themselves of the opportunity, there had only been an average attendance of about ten, or under, and it was for the Society to consider whether such a result justified the continuance of the Lectures. The subject was then freely discussed by the members present, some advocating an arrangement with the Chemistry Lecturers of the University, or Victoria College, for allowing pharmaceutical students to attend. The objection to this course would be that these lectures are held during the day, others thought that the Society was not justified in paying for lectures to which non-residents, who contributed so much to the Society, were unable to attend; in reply to this it was said, that the Committee in organizing the Lectures last Winter, had intended publishing a sort of digest of them in the Journal, but it was found impracticable. The opinion of the meeting seemed to be that by establishing a rigid examination, when the Society becomes incorporated, the junior members would be compelled to educate themselves, and would be more ready to take advantage of means of instruction placed within their reach.

It was moved by Mr. Hodgetts and seconded by Mr. Brydon—

"That in the opinion of this meeting it would not be advisable to establish a course of lectures for the coming season, but that the Lecture Committee be permitted to take such action as may be thought fit to enable intending students to take advantage of any Chemistry Lectures, which may be held."—Carried.

With regard to legislation, the President said that he had heard complaints that a number of unqualified persons were commencing business, in anticipation of the passing of the proposed bill, so as to avoid passing an examination, and although such a practice was much to be regretted, still it would be impossible to have the act made retrospective, as to the examination, the only course being to get the law passed as soon as possible.

Meeting adjourned.

HENRY J. ROSE, Secretary.

## BOOK NOTICES.

A MANUAL OF ELEMENTARY CHEMISTRY, THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL. By GEO. FOWNES, F.R.S. From the tenth corrected and revised English edition. Edited by ROBERT BRIDGES, M.D. H. C. Lea, Philadelphia, 1869. pp. 857, 12mo.

This is an American edition of the celebrated text-book of Prof. Fownes, which has stood the test of over twenty years so satisfactorily, and which has always maintained a foremost place in the lists of standard chemical literature. The endeavour to render the work as complete as possible occupied the time of the author until a few hours previous to his death (1849), and the correction of the edition then being published was his daily task. Since that time the book has run through many editions, and until the last few years it has held a place as a text-book in the colleges, almost to the exclusion of others. Many of us can look back with pleasure to the clear, concise, and yet complete manual from which we derived so much instruction.

Latterly, however, the rapid progress of chemical discovery, and the more modern views entertained by the great majority of chemists as to the general principles of chemical philosophy, rendered many additions and alterations necessary. This task was undertaken by Dr. Bence Jones and Henry Watts, men in all respects pre-eminently fitted for the work. The result is the edition before us.

The work is necessarily considerably enlarged, many portions having been entirely re-written, as that on the principles of chemistry, as well as the greater part of that devoted to organic chemistry. The more modern ideas, relating to atomic numbers and the arrangement of atoms, receives a special share of attention, and the new classification of the elements according to their atomicity, is fully discussed and adopted.

The nomenclature of compounds has not been altered to the barbarous extent to which it has been carried by some modern chemists. The word "of" in the names of salts, &c., has been dropped, and the terminations *ous* and *ic*, indicative of a greater or less proportion of the chlorous element, adopted; thus the sulphate and persulphate of iron become, respectively, ferrous and ferric sulphate.

The additions rendered necessary by the manifold discoveries of latter years have been made, and in every respect, we think, that Fownes' Manual may be taken with confidence as representing the true state of chemical knowledge at the present day.

### White Wine Vinegar.

Take of acetic acid (No. 8).

Sherry wine—of each, one pint.

Acetic ether, two fluid drachms.

Water, six pints. Mix.—[Pharmacist.

## Communications.

### THE PERCENTAGE SYSTEM.

To the Editor of the Pharmaceutical Journal:

DEAR SIR,—I was very glad to see your remarks on the "percentage system," and had intended writing on the subject myself; now that it has been started I hope it will not be dropped until the grievance is abated. Surely, if the matter were properly represented to medical men, they would agree to cease unjust exactions from unfortunate druggists, of whose necessities they take advantage. Individual druggists cannot make a stand against a system which has attained such a firm foothold—in fact, it is even carried to a greater extent than your correspondent would lead one to suppose. For instance, it has several times happened that medical men have had the effrontery to ask for percentage on occasional prescriptions which reached me; either because they were troublesome or expensive to fill, or because the parties bringing them wanted credit and were not considered very good pay. They also ask for percentage on various things not coming under the head of medicines, which have been required, but which they do not keep in stock, such as wine, arrow-root, sago, and such like. Not long since, a Doctor said he expected me to give him percentage on any such things as above mentioned, saying he had sent me some orders, and that there should now be something coming to him. On my declining to make any arrangement of the kind, he left, and I have never been troubled with orders from him, or custom in any shape.

On another occasion, I was given to understand by a doctor, that he would prefer sending prescriptions to me if I would allow him the same percentage as others; but, on my declining, he went elsewhere, although the druggist he selected knew so little of his business that the doctor had to go behind the counter and show him how to perform the necessary manipulations. The same doctor has frequently walked to the drug store, prescription in hand, lest it should be taken elsewhere; and even when I have sent patients to him, would not allow them to bring me their prescriptions even when they begged for permission to do so.

As soon, however, as druggists are fairly brought into one body by the Pharmaceutical Society, let them make a stand—no one can object to do so, as he would, by objecting, tacitly admit that customers would not voluntarily bring prescriptions to him.

Again, let the Pharmaceutical Society take measures for putting the matter in a friendly way to the medical men, and I have no doubt the good sense of the majority will carry the day and bring about a reformation without any unpleasant feelings resulting.

Medical men labor under the impression that we are coining money; now, as a general rule, I think this is not the case. We cannot make as much money in a day as others who pursue similar occupations, as for instance, that of a watchmaker who charges 25 cents for putting a glass in your watch—the price of the glasses varying from 1½ to 3 cents—and other portions of the watchwork in like proportion. Now, what would be thought of a druggist if he were to charge similar rates.

Another matter might be represented to medical men, namely: are they much the gainers in keeping and putting up their own