

better times. The crops of the last two years were abundant, and good prices ruled, so that the agricultural class, upon which all business hinges, was in good financial condition. In some lines of trade, of course, business was not what it might have been, but still, cutting and other ruinous practices were not so much in vogue as in preceding years. The outlook for another good year is bright and we hope that all our readers will be benefitted and get their share of the business that seems to be in prospect.

OFFICIAL AND OFFICINAL.

In our November issue we criticized the Quebec Board of Examiners for translating the term "official preparations" into French by the term "préparations officinales." It now appears that the Board was divided on the question, the examiner who made the translation holding that he was right, that the French word "Officinal" conveys the same meaning as the English word "official." We think his arguments have no foundation, as all the authorities are against him.

In this country we say that a preparation or drug is *official* if it is authorized by the British Pharmacopœia; if authorized by the United States or French Pharmacopœia we say that is official in the U.S.P. or Codex as the case may be, but no one with a due appreciation of the meaning of the words would say *officinal* in the B. P., or U. S. P., or Codex.

The Century Dictionary defines the word "official" as follows:

Official (F. *officiel*) derived from the proper office or officer, or from the proper authority; hence, authorized: (from the Latin, *officium*, duty, office.)

Officinal (F. *officinal*). From the Latin, *officina*, a workshop or laboratory. Of or pertaining to a shop or laboratory; used in a shop or laboratory; a drug or medicine sold in an apothecary's shop; specifically, a drug prepared according to the pharmacopœia.

The latter statement is not correct according to English custom. Americans generally use the term *officinal* incorrectly for *official*, the explanation of which we will give later.

Webster gives the following definitions:

"Official" (F. *officiel*). Pharm.—Approved by authority; sanctioned by the pharmacopœia; made or communicated by the proper authority, as an official drug or preparation.

"Officinal." Pharm.—Kept in stock by apothecaries; said of such drugs and medicines as may be obtained without special preparation or compounding.

This term is often interchanged with *official*, but in strict use *officinal* drugs are not necessarily

official."

Becherel's definitions are as follows:

"*Officiel*.—Ce qui est déclaré, proposé, publié, en vertu d'une autorité reconnue."

"*Officinale*.—Se dit des médicaments qu'on doit trouver prêts dans les officines, c. à d., chez les pharmaciens. Médicaments officinales—les électuaires, les sirops, les emplatres, etc., sont les préparations officinales.

Spiers & Surenné. Translate *official* by *officiel*; *officinal*, by *officinal*, used in shops.

Becherel in his definitions would seem to be against us, but it will be noticed that he says "qu'on doit trouver prêts dans les officines," but nothing about being authorized, while the definition of the word *officiel* clearly supports our claim that the term applies only to drugs or preparations; "déclaré, proposé, publié en vertu d'une autorité reconnue," that is, by or in the Pharmacopœia. As a general rule all *official* drugs and preparations are *officiel*, but not a tenth part of *officinal* drugs and preparations are *officiel*. As before stated, in the United States the term *officinal* is very frequently applied to authorized preparations of the Pharmacopœia. The reason is that the Pharmacopœia really has no such legal weight as the B. P., as it is not published under government authority, but only by that of the Pharmacopœia Revision Committee. Although generally accepted as the standard of the courts, still it would be better if the term *official* was universally adopted.

However, this is a digression from the main point which we started out to prove. It will be seen that all the authorities we have quoted, The Century Dictionary, Webster, Becherel, and Spiers & Surenné, support our claims. The fact that some French writers, as well as some American writers, sanction the use of the word *officinal* where the correct English custom prescribes the word *official*, does not warrant us in following their bad example; as we have the two words to denote two different states of things, these words should be properly translated in order to denote such difference.

Examination questions should be so clearly worded that there may be no question as to the exact meaning of every word and phrase, and if the English examiners use the word *official*, the French examiners should use the word *officiel*, which means exactly the same thing, and not *officinal* which means an entirely different thing. There can be no dispute about what is meant by the first word, whereas there can be about the latter, and for the sake of clearness and definiteness the word *officiel* should be adopted.

He—My views on bringing up a family—

She—Never mind your views. I'll bring up the family. You go and bring up the coal.