

are desirable. The suggestions and criticisms should be sent in within three months. It may be stated that mere substitutes for official drugs are not required, but, rather, to recognize local drugs for their own value. Thus, in the case of alstonia, the bark of which was recommended for official recognition by the Medical Society of Queensland, and the preparation of extract, pill, and tincture by the Queensland Pharmacy Board, a full list of characters is detailed and a formula for tincture on the basis of tincture of calumba, 1898, but the formulæ for other preparations are wanting.

It may be that the Queensland Pharmacy Board and medical men have very good evidence of the value of alstonia, but it must be confessed that in England it has been tried without any conspicuous success, and I am informed by wholesale druggists who export largely to Queensland that the demand for tincture, etc. is very limited. It is not, perhaps, safe to generalize, but too often these matters are settled in the name of a corporation or body without consultation with the mass of members. An instance in point was the recommendation of a cholera mixture by the Royal College of Physicians, London, at the suggestion of the Local Government Board, when cholera was feared about five years ago. Among the ingredients in this precious mixture, which was received with scorn and even derision by medical men, was tincture of coto. It may, of course, be a valuable remedy, but hardly a chemist's pharmacy or the dispensary of a medical man throughout the country had this preparation on the shelf. It turned out, afterwards, that the prescription was a fad of one of the leading physicians of the day, and only a West End chemist can realize what fads these leading physicians have and to what length they carry them.

Another instance of formidable resolutions passed in a perfunctory and inadequate manner by bodies that are representative only in name was related to me by a wholesaler the other day. In this case the London Chamber of Commerce was the sinner. The subject for discussion was the suggestion made six months ago by the Cape Government, that all patent or proprietary medicines should be compelled, under penalty, to have their composition stated on the label or wrapper. First of all this prospective piece of legislation had, in consequence of the general elections at the Cape, been

abandoned by the Government, and, as the election results gave very evenly-balanced parties, it was incomprehensible that such a revolutionary and debatable bill would be re-introduced in the present state of politics. In spite of this, the Chamber of Commerce evidently thought it ought to move in the matter. The meeting was duly called of the particular section, and less than a dozen individuals were present. The chairman, who had no particular knowledge of the subject or sympathy with manufacturers, briefly commented on the object of the bill in a manner that suggested he saw no harm in it. Then a young member arose and vigorously attacked the bill in the sacred name of free trade. He was promptly supported, and, as the other side had nothing to say, in ten minutes a resolution was adopted and carried unanimously. Part of the joke comes in when it was ascertained that the resolution was identical with one adopted by the proprietors of patent medicines and patent medicine houses six months before.

Next month a similar farce is to be played at the Pharmaceutical Society, when regulations for the proper storage of poisons are to be discussed. It is safe to prophesy that certain regulations will be adopted, wise or otherwise, and their adoption *recommended* to the trade. In the first place the society does not represent the trade, only about one-third of it, although it will be admitted the leading members of the trade belong to the society. Then the voluntary obligation is hardly worth the paper it is printed upon, and there are no known means of enforcing them.

Chemists should note that orthoform has given place to new orthoform, which is much cheaper and just as effective. Similarly, beta-eucaine has replaced eucaine in many minor operations, and the manufacturers differentiate them as follows: Alpha-eucaine should be used in rhinology, laryngology, and otology, and beta-eucaine in ophthalmology, dentistry, and genito-urinary operations.

Liquid air is rapidly being brought into the field of practical chemistry, that is to say, a commercial article will soon be found, with liquid Co_2 , in every well-appointed laboratory. A use for liquid hydrogen has already been found by Professor Dewar, only it is feared that expense may prove a barrier. It can be used as a condensing agent, producing high vacua, as a tube containing air when

one end is immersed in liquid hydrogen quickly freezes, the air condensing as a solid. The vacuum thus produced is so high that electric discharge will hardly pass, and a similar high vacuum can only be obtained by hours of pumping.

In a former letter I referred to the British Institute of Preventive Medicine, which was inaugurated by the Prince of Wales some three or four years ago. The President is Lord Lister, and the Honorary Secretary Sir Henry Roscoe. An announcement has just appeared that the institute, which is avowedly on the lines of the Institut Pasteur, Paris, would change its name to a State College of Health. Now a more interesting communication from the officers appears. Through the munificence of Lord Iveagh, of Guinness' Stout fame, the institute will benefit to the extent of \$1,000,000, and this amount is to be divided into (1) extending and improving the premises and laboratories; (2) increasing the staff and their salaries; (3) to provide exhibitions, scholarships, and other attractions for medical and biological students to undertake research work at the institute. Lord Iveagh has stipulated for a complete change in the council, so that a certain number will be elected by him, the Government and Royal Society selecting the remainder. It is hoped that at last we may have a college in some degree fit to represent the importance of the subject and our city.

Dose Table of the B.P., 1898.

The Dose Table which appeared in our issue last month seems to have been "just what was wanted," if we are to judge by the number of enquiries received from all parts of Canada for extra copies of THE CANADIAN DRUGGIST containing the Table.

As we were unable to supply the demand we have decided to issue a limited number printed on light cardboard, suitable for tacking on the wall, and which will be sent by mail on receipt of ten cents for a single copy. Colleges or clubs of subscribers can secure a reduction by stating the number desired. As the demand is large, not only from students in pharmacy and from druggists in business, but also from the various medical colleges, an early application should be made, as the circulation will be limited. Several typographical errors which appeared in the table have been corrected, and as at present given may be relied upon as correct. Address,

THE CANADIAN DRUGGIST,
Toronto, Can.