

Pharmaceutical Association, and compared same with the vouchers and found them to be correct.

T. R. MORROW, } Auditors.
J. F. JAECK, }

These reports all being read and adopted, the President, Mr. McDowell, then delivered his address as follows:

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN:—

It is with some diffidence I arise to impose on you a short address at this, the close of my term as President of this Association.

Having to follow a gentleman of such ability and experience as our late President, Mr. Shotbolt, who I am glad to see with us to night, is somewhat a rash undertaking for one with so little experience and ability in this line as myself. However, I will do my best and you must overlook my shortcomings and take the will for the deed.

The year just past has been one of considerable experience to us as an Association. We have learned several things we were not cognizant of a year ago, especially regarding our Act of Association, which I regret to say we have discovered is not nearly so perfect as we thought it was. The lesson has been a somewhat expensive one, but I think it is much better for us to be made clearly aware of where we stand in this respect, than for us to continue on in fancied security only to be rudely awakened at some later day.

As you are aware your Council took steps to have the Act amended to more fully meet the views of our Association, but without success.

It appears to me that our Legislators must have a very bad opinion of the members of our profession, they seem so loath to give us that protection to which we think we are justly entitled, and which is granted to us by every other Province in the Dominion as well as in almost every other civilized country.

It took us three long years to get our present Act and when it finally passed, we could hardly recognize the child as the same we so meekly submitted to the tender mercies and approval of our Legislature. We had, however, to accept it as the best we could get, and had fond hopes, in the then future of having it so amended as to be more in accord with our views, but now these fond hopes have been rudely dashed to the ground, but, I trust, only to rise again with renewed strength and vigor. Our thanks are due to Dr. Watt who so ably championed our cause before the House and did everything in his power for us, but as I said before, without avail.

So much for what is past and gone; this we cannot now change, but it must be ours to use our best endeavors, profiting by the mistakes and shortcomings of the past to do better in the future and to keep eternally at it until we get an Act of Association that will give the public and ourselves that protection to which we are entitled.

But enough of legislating and legislators which is always very precarious work but

doubly so on the eve of a general election.

The past year has been an extremely trying one, commercially speaking, but I think we, as an Association, may be justly proud of the showing of our members abroad, as I trust and believe, the worst of the ordeal is over.

But we have not escaped entirely unharmed. Some of us were somewhat scorched and singed, but I am happy to say we are, I believe, all still on deck. I think it speaks highly for the business ability of our members, that they have passed through the year almost, if not, entirely, unharmed.

There are a few thoughts I would like to direct your attention to for a few minutes with the object of having them discussed here to-night, and I think you will agree with me that they are questions which require some attention from us. I have been careful to abstain from expressing an opinion on them in this address, my object being, as I said, to introduce them so that we may have a friendly and general discussion of them, and I would ask you all to give expression to your views on them fully, freely and fairly, looking not so much to personal aggrandisement as to the general good of our Association, and I feel sure if you will approach them in this spirit that good will come of it for all.

The first question is one which has been frequently brought to my mind, and I doubt not, to the minds of most of you here to-night, and is this: "The advisability of our taking steps to secure uniformity in prices, more especially of prescriptions and proprietary medicines."

The second question is: "The growing evil of the payment of commissions to physicians on prescriptions." This, I know, is what might be termed a chestnut, still I think we will admit it is an evil and I would like to have the views of those here to-night as to whether it is advisable or not to endeavor to root it out. Other associations are agitating the same question and it will do no harm for us to have a little discussion of it.

The third and last course on my "Bill of Fare" is one which I have been spoken to about several times recently and is this: "The advisability of our making some reduction in the Annual Fees of the Association." The Council would like to have the views of the members of the Association on this matter and would, I feel sure be only too willing to meet your views and so amend the By-laws, which amendment would, of course, have to be approved by a majority of the members of this Association and also by the Lieutenant Governor in Council before it would have any effect.

As to what your Council has been doing the past year, that has been clearly laid before you in the report of our Secretary, so there is no occasion for me to recur to it.

I must not close this address to night without paying a well deserved tribute to our Secretary-Registrar, Mr. Nelson, who has so ably performed the duties of his

position during the past year, duties which I am sure were sometimes far from pleasant, but which, I think you will agree with me in saying, Mr. Nelson has performed, fairly and justly. I know he has been accused by some of being the instigator of the late prosecutions for infractions of the Pharmacy Act, but I say here, and all the other members of the Council will bear me out, that Mr. Nelson was only carrying out the instructions of the Council, passed at the meeting held in Vancouver last September, and I, for one, think he carried out those instructions in the proper manner.

And now, gentlemen, wishing you all every success in your various undertakings, and that the Sun of the British Columbia Pharmaceutical Association may continue to shine more and more brightly unto the perfect day, of a more perfect Pharmacy Act, I will close.

Mr. Emery moved, and J. L. White seconded a hearty vote of thanks to the President, which, on being put by the Vice-President, was carried unanimously.

Messrs. D. E. Campbell and J. A. Te-poorten were then appointed Scrutineers of the election, and the sealed ballots were then placed in their hands, which, on examination and count, proved that Messrs. T. E. Atkins, J. A. Muir and T. M. Henderson were the elect of a large majority of the members. Messrs. T. E. Atkins and T. M. Henderson thanked the members for the re-election, as also did Mr. C. E. Jones for not electing him.

A discussion then arose relative to the questions mentioned in the President's address; the first one, "The Uniform Price List," received full discussion. Messrs. Cochrane, Henderson, Atkins and Nelson all spoke at length, the general opinion prevailing that, judging from past experience, both in Vancouver and Victoria, the idea was impracticable.

The second question, that of "Commissioning Physicians on their Prescriptions," raised a heated debate, Messrs. Cochrane, Shotbolt, Henderson and Nelson, speaking to the question. Mr. Cochrane thought it ought to be left to the individuals to judge for themselves. Mr. Shotbolt and Mr. Henderson thought little of it was done, and rather sat on the system, whilst Mr. Nelson strongly deprecated this unprofessional scheme and thought it a disgrace to both professions.

The third question, "The Proposed Reduction of the Annual Fee." A motion, moved by Mr. Emery and seconded by Mr. Williams, "That the Council be recommended to reduce the Annual Fee and he would suggest the fee be made \$7.50 for Licentiate in Business, \$3 for Licentiate Clerks, and \$1 for Apprentices," was, after some discussion, carried.

This ended the discussion, and various votes of thanks followed. D. S. Curtis, retiring Councillor, the President, Council and Registrar coming in for the same.

Nothing further transpiring for the good of the profession, the meeting adjourned, to meet in Vancouver, June, 1895.

CHAS. NELSON, Sec.-Registrar.