

## DRUGGISTS.

days of "good Queen Bess," in the words of the prince of English dramatists :

I do remember an apothecary,  
And hereabouts he dwells, which late I noticed  
In tatter'd weeds, with overwhelming brows,  
Culling of simples : meagre were his looks,  
Sharp misery had worn him to the bones,  
And in his needy shop a tortoise hung,  
An alligator stuff'd, and other skins  
Of ill-shaped fishes : and about his shelves  
A beggarly account of empty boxes,  
Green earthen pots, bladders and musty seeds,  
Remnants of pack thread and old cakes of roses  
Were thinly scattered to make up a shew.

ROMEO AND JULIET, Act V., sc. 1.

Until 1868 any person whatever might open what is called a chemist's shop in England, and deal in drugs and provisions. In that year, however, the Pharmacy Act was passed, which prohibits any person engaging in the business of, or assuming the title of chemist and druggist, or dispensing chemicals or drugs, unless he be registered under that Act. And to be registered one must pass an examination in Latin, English, arithmetic, prescriptions, practical dispensing, pharmacy, materia medica, botany and chemistry.

Under the Ontario Act (R.S.O., c. 145), there is a College of Pharmacy, managed by a Pharmaceutical Council, who grant certificates of competency to practice as pharmaceutical chemists, prescribe the subjects on which candidates are to be examined, and arrange for the registration of chemists. No one, save those registered or their employes, is authorized to compound prescriptions of legally authorized medical practitioners. The Act, however, does not apply to medical practitioners. But, save as aforesaid, no one can retail, dispense, or compound poisons, or sell certain articles named, nor assume or use the title of "Chemist and Druggist," or "Chemist," or "Druggist," or "Pharmacist or Apothecary," or "Dispensing Chemist or Druggist," unless he has complied with the Act.

The code Napoleon recognizes two classes of vendors of drugs and medicines, Apothecaries and Druggists. The former, who are assumed to be pharmaceutically educated, are alone allowed to sell compounded medicine, the latter who are classed with grocers are only permitted to sell drugs of a simple character in bulk and at wholesale. (Code of Med. Pol. 332, 33.) In the United States, wherever statistics do not otherwise direct, apothecaries and druggists are not upon the Common Law footing of provision vendors, and may sell in any quantities articles in which they deal.

A druggist is held to a strict accountability in law for any mistake he may make in compounding medicine or selling his drugs. By the Statute law of England it is declared to be the duty of every person using or exercising the art or mystery of an apothecary to prepare with exactness, and to dispense such medicines as may be directed for the sick by any physician. (55 Geo. III., c. 194, 85.) And by the same Act, for the further protection, security, and benefit of George the Third's subjects it was declared, that if any one using the art or mystery of an apothecary should deliberately or negligently, unfaithfully, fraudulently or unduly make, mix, prepare or sell any medicines, as directed by any prescription signed by any licensed physician, such apothecary, in conviction before a Justice of the Peace, unless good cause shown to the contrary, forfeit for the first offence £5, for second, £10, and for third he shall forfeit his certificate. But apart from any statute, whenever a druggist or apothecary (using the words in their general sense) sells a medicine, he impliedly warrants the good quality of the drugs sold; and besides that, he warrants that it is the article that is required and that it is compounded in every prescription dispensed by him *secundum artem*. Like the provision dealer, the pharmaceu-