

ether as an anæsthetic was, according to the preponderance of opinion, first proposed by Dr. William Morton, of Boston, who used it in the extraction of teeth, in September, 1846, with such success that he induced Dr. Warren, of the Massachusetts General Hospital, to try it in larger operations, which was done in October of the same year, and in a short time the whole surgical world was discussing the new discovery. It of course had many opponents; all sorts of dire results were prophesied from the introduction of any agent which would lessen pain; one of the arguments used being that it would be flying in the face of Providence, contrary to Bible teaching, etc., but it was not long till ether was being used in all the hospitals of the world, to be followed shortly after by the introduction of chloroform for the same purpose.

NO ANTAGONISM INTENDED.

WE are pleased to find where our contemporary, the *Canadian Druggist*, stands with regard to the retail druggist and the O.S.R.D. We confess our inability to comprehend its apparent antagonism, but were forced to consider it real by a series of editorials in the August, October and November issues.

In the first a charge was made against the druggists which the facts did not warrant, and when the true situation was stated by us, after investigation, instead of accepting such, the same erroneous charge was reiterated. October number laboriously endeavored to excuse the departmental stores from being the cause of cutting and slashing in prices, and fasten the same on the druggists themselves.

Again in the article to which we gave attention last month some questions directed to the editor were made the basis of an article whose whole tenor was to create distrust and dissatisfaction in the minds of members of the O.S.R.D. not conversant with all the facts. Now the writer of the article in our last number is a retail druggist, and one having more than ordinary interest in the success of the O.S.R.D., and he proposes to resent any attacks on the former and defend the latter from injury.

However, we are pleased to know that the *Druggist* was actuated by no antagonistic feelings, but its action was attributable rather to error in judgment.

We wish to remark, though, that there was no "error of hasty indiscretion" on our part. The act was one of deliberation and intention. The JOURNAL has no authority to speak in an official capacity for any organization or society, but it does claim to have the interests of the retail druggists at heart, and will just as strenuously champion them in the future as in the past. Regarding the suggested billingsgate, over

which the *Druggist* grows hysterical, we feel tempted to quote the old proverb, "Evil be to him that evil thinketh." We inserted a ——— and left it for each reader to fill the blank as the bent of his mind might prompt. Perhaps our friend's recent trip across the water and visit to the vicinity suggested the term he applied to our innocent blank. For billingsgate is "so English, you know."

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE RETAILER.

THE English journals bring to us most encouraging reports of the success of the Proprietary Articles Trade Association of England; the association is formed upon the lines of the O.S.R.D., with similar aims, the principal of which is to abolish the system of cutting in proprietary medicines. The plan of campaign is based on the co-operation of manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers. The manufacturers demand an undertaking from all parties to whom goods are sold not to sell the same below a scheduled minimum price. The wholesale jobber must secure a similar agreement before supplying the goods to retailers. The plan is apparently working most successfully. Scott's pills, the first article to be placed on the protected list, were immediately omitted from the catalogue of the Civil Service co-operative store, one of the largest concerns of its kind in London, and most persistent cutters. In a very short time they were again restored to their catalogue and advertised at full retail prices. This concern, and the Army and Navy, are now selling every protected article at the scheduled minimum retail price. The benefits of the movement are not all on the side of the retail man. During the past month a representative of the *British and Colonial Druggist* called upon all the manufacturers whose goods were on the protected list, and in every case they expressed satisfaction with the plan, and in most cases an increased demand for goods from the retail trade.

One of the largest American manufacturers is now on the way to England. Should he find the plan satisfactory, he will return prepared to adopt it in this country.

G. S. DAVIS RETIRES.

THE sensation of the month, in American drug circles, is the retiring of Mr. G. S. Davis from the active management of the firm of Parke, Davis & Co. The conditions which brought about this very unexpected event, according to press reports, are somewhat unfortunate. Mr. Davis' financial affairs are very unsatisfactory. In spite of a munificent income, he has become considerably involved, his