

William Smith has brought suit against the *Medical Age* of Detroit, and W. Warren, the publisher, because that journal called him a "quack." We hope he'll get it. A few more publishers like W. Warren would not hurt the medical profession.

There will be lively times shortly over the Belladonna Plaster "Bulletin" recently issued by the government. There are some remarkable statements and figures in it, and Messrs. Johnson & Johnson do not propose to let them go unchallenged. Perhaps in our next issue we will have some eye-openers.

The Philadelphia College of Pharmacy now boasts of a gymnasium, and is the only College of Pharmacy having such an adjunct. That is right; a little more athletics will make better men of our budding pharmacists. The average druggist does not get nearly enough exercise to keep him in good physical condition, which is the foundation of good mental condition. "Mens sana in corpore sano" holds good for druggists as for all others.

The committee of the scientific sections of the A. Ph. A. has forwarded circular letters to the druggists of the United States and Canada, offering assistance in the solution of questions of practical interest. Frequently questions arise concerning prescriptions, troublesome or unsatisfactory formulæ, complicated processes, etc., which for lack of time or other reasons cannot be resolved by the busy pharmacist, and it is to help in the matter that the committee has offered its aid, by giving the questions to those who have the time and appliances necessary for the work, such as the professors and students of the colleges of pharmacy. All questions should be sent to Wilbur L. Scoville, Mass. College of Pharmacy, Boston.

According to law promulgated recently, it is now forbidden to use in the German Empire any artificial sweetening agents such as saccharine, dulcin, etc., in the manufacture of beer, wine, liqueurs, fruit juices, conserves, and the sale of such articles containing saccharine, etc., is likewise forbidden. The promulgation of this decree does not necessarily imply that these goods are injurious, but rather that the beet-root sugar industry is of such importance that it must be protected from the competition of the laboratory. It is a piece of practical politics to please the Agrarian members of the German Parliament, who have already secured decrees forbidding the importation of American hog products and fruits. With American ham and bacon tabooed the German hog raisers ought to get wealthy, while his beet growing brother will benefit by the latest ruling.

The Pharmacy Board of New Zealand has decided that the new Pharmacopœia shall come into force on Jan. 1st, 1899, thus giving pharmacists and physicians sufficient time to become acquainted with all the changes, etc. The Victorian Assembly has adopted a bill declaring the B. P. of 1898, as a uniform guide and standard in the preparation of medicines in the colony of Victoria.

On motion of Ald. Ames, the Charter Committee of Montreal has adopted an amendment to the city charter, by which department stores shall pay an annual tax of \$250 for each department, the total not to exceed \$5,000, two members of the committee, Ald. McBride and Laporte, voting against it. We hope that the amendment will be adopted by the Council and the Legislature. Perhaps it would be as well for the Montreal Chemists' Association, and organizations representing other lines, to hold meetings to endorse the action of the Charter Committee.

The Chemical Society of England held the annual banquet recently, at which six ex-Presidents who had also been members of the society for over 50 years were present. We doubt if any other existing society can present a similar spectacle, although it is generally supposed that the practice of chemistry has a most injurious effect on the health. The ex-presidents present were Sir J. H. Gilbert, the great agricultural chemist; Sir Edward Frankland, the authority on sewage and water supply; W. Odling, one of the founders of the new chemistry; Sir F. A. Abel, of Woolwich, the inventor of cordite, and authority on explosives; A. W. Williamson, of etherification theory fame, and J. H. Gladstone, the physico-chemist.

Quite a formidable array of eminent chemists, and all still able to take part in scientific work.

That accidents will happen, even when the greatest care is taken, is well known, and occasionally even experienced operators, while working with chemicals, have received serious injuries, as shown by an accident which occurred at the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute. Prof. Fay, while demonstrating to a class the properties of liquid air, undertook to show the effect of this agent on amorphous phosphorus. The first action seemed to be a change of color; a little of the mixture was poured on the laboratory table, and as soon as the air had evaporated an explosion took place, and some of the powdered phosphorus was thrown into the face of the lecturer, and the table was set on fire. Prof. Fay was seriously injured, and for some time it was feared that his eyes were permanently injured, but the physicians now hope to save his sight although he will be badly disfigured.