

CANADIAN DRUGGIST.

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The Coming Pharmacopœia.

The request from Prof. Atfield that the British Colonies aid in the compilation of an *Imperial Pharmacopœia* to answer for all parts of the Empire, has not met with the hearty response from Canadian pharmacists that is desirable. There seems to have been a growing sentiment here in favor of a purely Canadian edition to be recognized as the standard by the Dominion Government, but, as many strongly divergent views would have to be harmonized before such an idea could be put to practical use either for physicians or pharmacists, we are of opinion that it will be wise to profit by the opportunity afforded and secure what we can that will meet our views. Even though we as druggists might desire to emulate independent countries in preparing a pharmacopœia, we must bear in mind that we have not yet been able to place the medical profession under our absolute dictum, and that we would have to depend upon their concurrence and medical knowledge if we wished to prepare a codex that would not be a plagiaristic copy of those now in existence.

In thinking of a Canadian Pharmacopœia at all we do so in connection with a desire to have it become the legal standard for Canada, and our mind naturally frames it as a modification of the British and United States works. We are not at all sure that if we compiled a Canadian pharmacopœia it would be adopted as the legal standard by the Government, unless we are confident that a stronger national spirit exists in Canada than does in the United States, where the Pharmacopœia we are so pleased to quote still exists as an unofficial text book, being prepared solely by commissioners appointed by medical or pharmaceutical societies, and having no other authority, although generally accepted as a national work.

An independent pharmacopœia, issued by a dependency, would be somewhat of an anomaly, and would serve but little purpose outside of its immediate jurisdiction, and, even though a compilation could be arranged which would receive governmental authorization, it would only create a precedent for similar action in other Colonies and tend to multiply works, which, as children of a parent, could not reasonably hope to be greater than the parent.

With the very great facilities for rapid travel now afforded all countries, causing

constant intercourse of people of different nationalities, it is desirable that the greatest possible degree of uniformity in the formulæ of the more powerful preparations at least be striven for, and the fewer and more representative the authorities are the more likely will there be a concentration for international arrangement for such a purpose.

As liberal Canadians we cannot afford to be narrow minded. In a matter of this kind, where the general welfare rather than our individuality is the the question of supreme importance, our duty is clearly in line with the effort of the mother country to frame a pharmacopœia which will, as far as possible, be a credit to the imperial character designed for it by its liberal minded editor.

Will We Meet.

In our last issue we endeavored to direct some attention to the pending meeting of the Provincial Pharmaceutical Association, as we thought that a word in season might not be amiss. So far we have not been encouraged by the assurances of support we hoped might be given the very excellent officers the Association has selected to direct its affairs, and we fear that unless events shape themselves other than they appear to be doing at present, it will be wise to defer any meeting until some subject of immediate and general interest shall arise to call forth a spontaneous desire for a gathering to discuss it.

We, personally, are of the opinion that the subjects which could now be profitably treated of would warrant a full attendance of druggists from all parts of the Province, but, as our opinion is only an individual one, it can't bear much weight in arousing general interest to an extent necessary to make such a gathering the success it ought to be. The drug trade of the Province cannot expect to make its influence felt in regulating trade difficulties unless by concerted action upon well defined principles. The standing of its members cannot be properly elevated unless upon the same basis of concerted action looking towards scientific attainment. The changes, which new conditions of educational training and association with sister colleges makes necessary in the Act which governs our calling, makes imperative united action to secure them. The necessity of striving to secure a strong enforcement of the Act to protect the privileges of those who are properly qual