

with the practical knowledge gained in our laboratories, will enable them to pass a satisfactory examination after completing their College course, and to receive the reward for their services, either here or elsewhere, which commercial, professional, or scientific talent can always command. The better qualified our young men become the more certain we are to send our surplus talent to a larger field where it will receive a better reward. This has ever been the policy of our Council. Educational advancement has been the watchword, and any departure from it would be derogatory to us and an act of injustice to those who will in future take our place and carry out our policy. The aim has always been a high one, but knowledge is a steep which all may climb and any effort which is being put forth to render the way easy should receive our undivided support.

The second point in this object, that of advisement upon legal measures sought to be secured, opens a vista of thought and a range of opinions, which it is hard to harmonize. An ideal Pharmacy Act will never exist, because none can be framed which will meet all purposes, but if we can secure a measure which will meet the requirements of the greatest number, we will have gained all we can reasonably expect. The principle of law is "ruling power," and is as fitly applied to the framing of a constitution for an incorporated body as it is to the government of a country. The absolute necessity for measures such as ours is the cause for their existence. Protection and privilege may be said to be the essence of all of them. In our case, protection to the public and privilege to us. We do not object to the public enjoying every protection which can be offered. Our body has in every instance been the promoter of protective clauses, and, I am satisfied, will ever continue to be so. The Act we now possess cannot be said to be an exclusive one in any sense, and as an emanation from an interested body is remarkable for its liberality. In being generous to the public, however, we ought to be just to ourselves. If an Act of our own framing is intended to be of any benefit to us we want to be able to use it when necessary. If we can't use it, it confers no privileges. Assuming, what is certainly reasonable, that our compliance with legal requirements entitles us to the enjoyment of privileges, our justification for attempting to secure them is complete. The difficulty has always been what it is now, failure on our part to give a loyal support to those who are expected to frame our Act and secure its passage. Those who were here a year ago will remember that the draft then read differed only from its predecessors in being more definite as to the powers we should have under the Act. We were practically a unit in believing that we were entitled to all the benefits which would be likely to accrue from a passage of the changes sought, and our endorsement of them on that occasion very naturally created the impression that

for that time at least we would make our influence felt. As a body we did not do so, the support given from the seven hundred druggists of the province was of a very different character. Our activity was as conspicuous by its absence as was the activity of our opponents by its presence. If those within our own ranks who favored the measure had labored one-half as assiduously as those who opposed it, the justice of our claims would have received more tangible recognition, yet notwithstanding the enormous sum of money spent by the Patent Medicine Association to defeat the measure, the justice of our plea enabled our lay representatives to practically rout the arguments of the eminent legal counsel who appeared to urge their cause before the Legislative Committee of the House. Our cause was good, but our support was lacking, and nothing is more certain than that if we ever expect to better our condition by legislative enactment we will have to cast aside differences of opinion, petty jealousies, and labor unitedly for the good of a common cause. If we are unwilling to do so we had better make no attempt, as a measure which fails to get proper support from without is unlikely to secure a talented advocate to espouse its cause within the House.

I am far from believing that we cannot successfully pass a satisfactory measure. It is a matter which rests entirely with ourselves. The opposition scheme operated last time cannot well be used again, as every member of the Legislature is fully cognizant of the artifices practised, and I do not hesitate to express my conviction that the attempt to deceive the members into the belief that the opposition apparently urged against it was spontaneous will serve in the future as a boomerang to recoil on their own heads. Deceit never pays in the end. If their cause had been a proper one they could have honestly taken a stand on the merits of their case and have received all they were entitled to. The members of the House cannot be fooled as easily as their constituents. Their duty is discernment and nothing could have demonstrated more readily the futility of attempting to deceive them than the readiness with which they turned to ridicule the arguments speciously used by those who appeared as our opponents in the committee room.

Our ground is still under our feet; we can again make an honest effort to win, and if we only prove true to ourselves and to those who are in future to reap the benefit of our efforts, we are almost certain to reap the reward we are justly entitled to. In conclusion, let me say that our first duty, our last duty, and our whole duty is the putting forth of every honest effort to better our condition. I do not fear but our efforts will be honest ones, but my anxiety is that they be earnest ones. The scope I have outlined will afford us all work. Do not leave it to be performed by the few whom we may select to represent us, but let us all give them our hearty support to win a position of honor for the profession and practice of pharmacy in the Province of Ontario.

At the conclusion of the address Vice-President L. W. Youmans moved a very cordial vote of thanks to the president for his able effort, speaking in the highest terms of the remarks made therein. Referring to some of the points of the address, Mr. Youmans said he was particularly impressed with what the president had said regarding the investigation of the natural products of the country of interest to the pharmacist. Personally he had given much attention to that subject, and he could assure the association that he had derived both pleasure and profit from his researches. One other thing he would like to say was that he had been greatly pleased when attending the Congress of Pharmacists at the World's Fair to notice the high position the Phar-

macy Act of this Province took among the laws of the world. The only country which had any legislation approaching ours in efficiency was New South Wales, and the Act there had one feature which he considered an improvement which was a provision for the progressive examinations of apprentices. They were examined each year instead of at the end of their four years' course, and he thought it would be well if this plank could be adopted in this Province. (Hear, hear.) He had great pleasure in moving the resolution of thanks to the president.

The resolution was formally seconded, carried unanimously, and tendered by Secretary McCann, and the president appropriately acknowledged the vote.

Upon the motion of Messrs. R. S. Muir, Walkerton, and H. Sherris, Toronto, the minutes of the previous annual meeting were taken as read and approved.

The Secretary then presented the report of the Committee on Constitution and By-Laws. This was taken up clause by clause and finally adopted with slight amendments.

Mr. R. S. Muir was next called upon to read a paper upon "Druggists as Opticians," which he did in the following terms:

DRUGGISTS AS OPTICIANS.

In a paper read at the organization of this association the closing sentence was as follows: "New avenues of trade are being constantly opened up, and with the wondrous and continuous changes occurring in the social, political, economic, and commercial worlds, the drug trade must accommodate itself to new conditions, having due regard to special privileges the result of special training." During the past year the above remarks have acquired an additional force. The drug trade has not made much progress towards maintaining its exclusive right to engage in the handling of drugs, whether in the crude, manufactured or compounded state. The necessity to secure new branches of trade is more imperative than ever. The drug trade has warmed the patent medicine monster into life and now is threatened with destruction by the monster's greed. The vehement outcry against recently proposed legislation is evidence that the trade cannot expect to retain a branch which has passed beyond control and endangers the professional standing of druggists. In an endeavor to place within the reach of the trade a better method of developing a branch of trade closely allied to drugs, as being in a certain sense of curative value, I submit the following paper upon optical work, hoping that the hints given may be found useful as well as a source of profit.

To the Victorian era belongs the honor of witnessing the most marvellous developments in science, and the application thereof to the relief of misery and the attainment of happiness. Perhaps in no part of medical science has more advancement been made than in relation to the treatment of the eye. The prevalence of