

The Registrar-Treasurer, Blanchard, read his last report, showing a balance of cash on hand of over \$300. This gave rise to some discussion as to the accumulation of a surplus, and it was proposed to lower the annual fee all round, \$7 for licentiates in business, \$3 for clerks, and \$1 for apprentices. The President's address was listened to with much interest. Mr. Shotbolt evidently has the best of intentions, but somehow or other he doesn't seem to have carried them out this year. We shall look for by-laws which will keep fellows from prancing over the border for examination, and likewise a more austere board of examiners as a result of increased abilities. The address was nice, though, and gave much encouragement to the assembled fifteen. We understand the whole business of the meeting will be printed and sent to every member, the CANADIAN DRUGGIST will no doubt favor us with a reprint as last year. The following is the newly-elected Council: Pres., H. McDowell, Vancouver; Reg. Treas., Charles Nelson, Vancouver; Vice-Pres., T. M. Henderson, Victoria; Thomas Shotbolt, John Cochrane, Victoria; H. H. Watson.

We heartily approve of the election of Mr. McDowell as President, a position he will fill with credit. Mr. Nelson is just the man for Registrar, and, although we like Mr. Blanchard and regret his retiring, we welcome his successor gladly. New blood is infused into the Association, Vancouver is now headquarters, and things have got to hum.

Montreal Notes.

The little ripple which sprang up among the country druggists, with regard to circulars issued by a wholesale drug house to country doctors, appears to have been allayed by the wholesale house alluded to having explained in the columns of its organ that a circular had been issued to druggists and storekeepers, and that one of these accidentally found its way to a country doctor. Complaint was made by the local druggist to a local member of Council and also to the firm. Explanations, as usual, followed, and all is now lovely. The Council of the Pharmaceutical Association, when the question was informally introduced, of course declined to have it discussed, as it was not within the scope of its functions. It is but justice to the firm interested to say that the junior partner, who is the general manager, has always disclaimed the slightest intention to interfere in any way with the legitimate customers of country druggists.

In the Province of Ontario, we believe, the Local Government has legislated on the subject of the strength of tinctures and other pharmaceutical preparations by making the British Pharmacopœia the sole authority. In this Province, so far as is known, the only reference to the subject is three or four clauses in the Adulteration Act, but these do not state that the B. P. alone shall be used, but that either the B. P. or U. S. P. or any other

standard pharmacopœia may be used. It is presumed that the want of an authoritative enactment having been pointed out, the Local Legislature, on the suggestion of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, will pass a short Act regulating the subject.

We have been requested to state that President of the Pharmaceutical Association of this Province at the annual meeting explicitly stated "that he did not partake of the opinion that we should not have all our tinctures according to the British Pharmacopœia." In the report of the Montreal *Pharmaceutical Journal* the word "not" was omitted.

The Pharmaceutical Association has lost its suit against Mr. Mathieu for being a partner in a retail pharmacy without being registered. The judge decided that Mr. Mathieu was a silent (sleeping) partner and took no part in the business, and, as such, was not affected by the Act.

At the first Council meeting of the Pharmaceutical Association for the election of officers, Mr. Gray, the retiring president, declined re-election. The president elect, Mr. Contant, will make an energetic and painstaking successor to Mr. Gray.

The new Council, it is believed, will follow a very conservative course. Its first work will doubtless be a complete revision of the by-laws which sadly need attention. We would suggest that in the new by-laws a clause should be inserted requiring a voter, who is too indifferent or too busy to attend the annual meeting, to send his vote in a closed envelope *direct to the Secretary*. Votes sent through other channels should be void.

Messrs. W. A. Dyer & Co. are now fully installed in their new pharmacy, corner of St. Catharine and University streets.

We are sorry to hear that Mr. Contant, of the firm of Picault & Contant, has had the misfortune to lose one of his children. Our sympathies are with Mr. Contant in his bereavement.

The Christian Endeavor Convention, which was held in Montreal this year, has done a great deal of good to general business. It is calculated that the Convention, which numbers nearly 20,000 people, must have left not much less than \$200,000 in the city.

Pharmaceutical Examinations.

The Board of Examiners for the preliminary examination of students entering the study of pharmacy, held their quarterly meeting in the Montreal College of Pharmacy, 595 LaGauchetière street, on Tuesday, July 6th, when thirty-six candidates presented themselves, and of these the following young gentlemen passed on all subjects, namely: Louis Rogalsky, Harry Smith, E. Clement, James W. Elcome, C. A. Brault, F. Mariotti, W. F. Ronch, H. Brazier, J. P. Cassegrain, C. Tourgeon and A. Gadbois. The following

candidates failed on arithmetic and will be required to present themselves at the next examination to be examined on that subject only: E. Thivierge, Geo. Vieolle, and A. R. Webb. The remainder of the candidates have been referred back for further study, and will be required to take up the whole examination when presenting themselves again.

The examiners were Wm. S. Kerry, Ed. Giroux, jr., C. G. Searll.

The next examination will take place on October 5th, and all candidates must file their applications with the registrar at least ten days before the date of examination.

Notes From England.

(From our own Correspondent.)

The introduction of numerous synonyms into the pharmacopœia has not always been of advantage to the trade. In the 1885 edition of the B. P. the popular term "soda water" was affixed as a synonym to the preparation—liquor soda effervescentes. The idea in the mind of Prof. Atfield, who is generally credited with initiating this innovation, was undoubtedly to benefit the chemists by enabling them to keep a standard article which doctor's could order with confidence. Unfortunately in this case as well as in several others, the requirements of the public do not coincide with the pharmacopœial article. For a long time it has been apparent that the public desire only plain aerated water under this title, and it would be unreasonable to expect manufacturers to put bicarbonate of sodium into it, merely because the pharmacopœia demands it. A long succession of prosecutions, instigated by over zealous public analysts, sometimes successful, but more often dismissed, has plainly shown the variance that exists between the public demands and manufacturers' practice on the one side and the occasional requirements of medical practitioners on the other. Professor Atfield fully recognizes that the pharmacopœia is not intended to provide standard beverages, and accordingly recommends that in future editions the names "potash" and "soda water" should disappear.

Some recent agitation has been caused by a magisterial decision that vinegar is essentially the product of malt, and that diluted acetic acid is inadmissible under the name of vinegar. Here again, the Pharmacopœia runs against the popular conception of at least pickling vinegar and also distilled vinegar. There is no doubt that a large quantity of diluted and colored acetic acid is sold under the name of vinegar, and as it is cheaper than the malt product and answers every requirement, it is difficult to see what objection can be raised. No sympathy can be felt for manufacturers, however, who label such preparations "malt vinegar," and several have already been fined for this proceeding. Vinegar essences are largely sold for export to the colonies and elsewhere, as there is a considerable saving