Canadian Druggist

WILLIAM J. DYAS, Editor and Publisher.

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Volume Seven.

With this issue the CANADIAN DRUGGIST enters on its seventh volume, and, at the same time, makes an important step in the removal of the office to Toronto. In 1889 the publisher issued the initial number, launching out into the sea of journalism without experience in the inner working of the printer's "sanctum," or in the many difficulties which a combined editorship and general management entailed, but with the determination to leave nothing undone to make the undertaking a success, and endeavoring to steer clear of the shoals and quicksands upon which many a venture has been wrecked, and so to guide the ways of the vessel, and to properly equip her, as to make her not only the pride of the owner, but a source of gratification and profit to the ports of entry into which she would steer—and these, we might mention, are in the whole length and breadth of this vast Dominion.

Our patrons, the druggists of this "Canada of ours," have nobly and liberally aided us in our efforts, have applauded our steady progress, and in many ways have given token of the appreciation felt in having a representative journal, akin to their feelings, and imbued with the desire, above all things, to assist in every legitimate and honorable way the interests of the retail drug trade.

While not making any rash promises for the future, it is our intention not only to maintain the enviable character given this publication as a Trade Paper, but, from time to time, to enhance its value not only as a reliable medium of information on matters of pharmaceutical happenings within our own borders, but giving the pith of pharmaceutical literature, culled from the columns of many of our able *confrères*, together with contributed articles from the pens of practical and skilled pharmacists in this and other countries.

To our readers we return thanks for their liberal support and encouragement, and also to our advertisers, who have contributed so largely towards our success.

To one and all we wish

A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

The New Year.

With the opening of the new year, we extend to each of our readers, our contributors, and our supporters, our best wishes for a happy and prosperous new year. The advent of the new always marks the limit of the old, and, while opening to us the hopes and opportunities of a new period, it closes behind us a time in which former hopes were realized or frustrated, and opportunities lost or made good use of. We all naturally long for prosperity. In our varied ways we strive for it, and use to the fullest the natural gifts we possess and the advantages we can secure. The limit of our field is, in many cases, the limit of the results we can attain. The character of the pursuit in which we are engaged does not afford us very great scope for commercial enterprise; yet for the amount of capital we require to invest, it is certain to yield us a greater return than could be derived from an equal amount invested in any other way. It is true that but few can ever hope to become wealthy, if their wealth is to be derived from the retail trade; yet it is equally true that to its diligent and painstaking votaries the drug business affords a happy medium, if the word happy is appropriate. Its pursuit is eminently respectable, and all that is required to make it satisfactory and endurable is contentment with what we have, and frugality deserving of better reward, with a determination to do still better, if possible. The year which has just ended has been as trying in many respects as could well be thought possible; and as we have all survived it, and are yet hopeful of the future developing to our advantage, it cannot be amiss for us to express hopes which we all feel an interest in, and which, if fulfilled, will make the new year to us, at least, a much better one than the old.

Druggists and Physicians.

In an editorial in a late number of the *Ontario Medical Journal* an onslaught is made on druggists under the supposition that they are responsible for the sale of proprietary medicines. The statement of the case and the arguments used are so weak that it might be allowed to pass without criticism, but the frequency with which articles of a similar kind, with the same end in view, appear in medical journals of late makes it advisable that some notice should be taken of them in the pharmaceutical press. The fact that the country is being flooded with physicians, many of whom barely eke out a living, is no doubt the reason for much of the outburst of feeling which is exhibited. Pining for a professional life, young men, encouraged by the fact that in former days practitioners made, in many cases, handsome competences out of their profession, and trusting in the "close combine" which exists to realize all their expectations, they enter on a life calling for which many of them are unfitted, and, as the article referred to says, "settle down and be ready for any emergency," trusting to the people to support them, and, in fact, demanding a support, and resisting any supposed invasion of their rights.

The article says, "When druggists will undertake to manufacture and compound medicines to cure diseases, and make a trade of them to everybody, we think they are going beyond their duty, and invading the rights of every physician now devoting his time to the practice of medicine."

Who, we ask, is the proper person to "manufacture and compound medicines" if not the druggist? The law says he is, and licenses him to do so; then by what right or on what grounds can the physician object? How are they "invading the rights of every physician"? What law, either of custom or on the statute books of the country, consigns to the physician "the right" to "manufacture and compound medicines"? True, there are many physicians throughout the country who do prepare proprietary remedies and push their sale; still this does not say they are the only persons who should do so, neither, we think, will our contemporary attempt to justify them.

Our contention is, if proprietary medicines are to be manufactured, the druggist is the one who should make them, and "make a trade of them to everybody."

Another complaint made by physicians is in respect to the refilling of prescriptions by druggists. This matter we spoke of at length in a recent issue. We would merely notice a threat made in the *Dominion Medical Monthly*, where its says, "A physician can now keep his supply of tablets, triturates, pills, dressings, etc., in such a convenient form that he can give his own medicines to his patients at very little waste of time. If the druggists are not careful, they may force medical men to keep their own supplies." All of which is quite true, and, referring to the first clause, we know of instances—and who does not?—of physicians now dispensing their own medicines, sometimes charging for them and sometimes not, in some cases giving advice and medicine as low as twenty-five cents, and ranging upwards to five dollars and sometimes more. The threat to "keep their own supplies," therefore, does not alarm many; but how would it do for every druggist to have his own physician, who could prescribe free? If doctors will go at us with "daggers drawn," surely we must, as pharmacists, prepare to meet them, and "where there's a will there's a way." Let us rather, therefore, work harmoniously together, as we should do, each keeping as much as possible within his own limit, and be co-laborers in the main aim and end of both professions—the relief of the suffering and cure of the diseased.

Cash Discount.

The wholesale drug houses of Montreal have issued a joint circular in reference to discounts, etc., which reads as follows:

On and after January 1st, 1895, our terms will be as under:

Monthly accounts (four months' goods) paid on or before the fifteenth day of the month following that of purchase will be subject to 5 per cent. discount.

If paid after that date, and on or before the last day of the same month, 3 per cent. discount will be allowed.

Settlements after above indicated periods, and prior to maturity (four months