

belong to a profession which, in regard to education, was second to none in the land?

What I said respecting the lowering of matriculation was not "that it would entice more into the business," but "that an inferior class of men would go into it, while those of greater ambition and ability would be found entering fields that would afford their talents a wider scope." He accuses me of selfishness for advocating a higher standard of education, and yet he says, "Keep them out by lengthening the term of apprenticeship." Now, I ask you, which is the more reasonable? and which more in keeping with this progressive age?

As regards the young man who has been nine months at the business and is not able to wash a bottle yet, that is not to be wondered at if the teaching of "An Apprentice" is anything like his ideas respecting higher education. For a youth who has the impudence to characterize the teaching of such men as the late Sir Daniel Wilson, and others associated with him, as "useless trash," or "mental cramming," is not likely to be a brilliant success as a teacher or anything else. If he only knew a little more of what they taught, he would not show his ignorance by speaking so lightly of their teaching. If he was a little more conversant with that "old-fashioned dead language" called Latin—and from which, by the way, a great part of the English language is derived—he would not find such difficulty in "mentally assimilating" what was taught at the Ontario College of Pharmacy or elsewhere.

I hope, Mr. Editor, we shall not weary you with this dispute; but that it will be the means of calling the attention of the drug profession at large to the now ridiculously low standard of matriculation. And if it does, I feel sure a higher standard will be the result. I have spoken with several druggists of late concerning this matter, and have yet to find one, beyond my friend, "An Apprentice," who is not in favor of making matriculation in pharmacy and medicine one and the same. Thanking you for valuable space, I am,

Yours respectfully,  
A.M.

#### Animal Oils and the New Pharmacopœia.

##### THE PROPERTIES OF "OLEUM ANSERIS," OR GOOSE-GREASE.

Being struck, for some years, with the scarcity of the animal oils and oleaginous substances in our Pharmacopœia, in comparison with those derived from vegetables, I would venture to briefly bring before the profession the properties of an oleaginous substance of peculiar penetrating power, and one for many years well known in most households.

At present we possess but three animal oleaginous substances in the British Phar-

macopœia, viz.: (1) Oleum morrhue. (2) Lard. (3) Hydrous wool-fat ("Lanolin").

This strange coincidence is almost surprising in itself, considering the number of oils known in medicine and commerce. The third material has, of late years, been in use, viz., "Lanolin," and there is reason to believe this possesses properties which would entitle it to a place in our formularies.

The one of which I write, however, is more easily obtained than most oils, and is already well known to the public. It is plain "goose-grease." That this substance possesses valuable medicinal properties is, to my mind, clear beyond question. It is of the easiest purchase—cheap, one would imagine, as a marketable article, and of its activity, when used in medicine, I have had, for a considerable time, no doubt.

In affections of the chest it is a most excellent substance to apply, even alone. In bronchitis of the sub-chronic type, or what would best be termed a "cold in the chest," or moderate bronchial catarrh, few liniments or applications will be found to equal this "oleum anseris," or goose-grease. Stimulative liniments are frequently prescribed for this condition, and they are most efficacious in their action. I have, however, frequently witnessed the "rubbing-in" process of these substances, and, while some penetrate the skin with great difficulty, a few do not at all. Now, if a drachm or so of this grease be placed in the hand of the rubber and the liniment poured thereon, it will be carried into the tissues in a remarkable way.

During the late influenza epidemic—an epidemic fraught with some of the most interesting lessons in the study of medicine—I frequently observed patients who were using this remedy for the cough which was associated with the later stages of the disease, and marked the benefit they obtained therefrom. Where some bronchial mischief remains unresolved in the lung, and that peculiar, tenacious, viscid secretion lies attached to its internal mucous or serous vesicular wall, a stimulating liniment will be immensely helped by the addition of this oil. It becomes much easier to rub in, and appears to become absorbed rapidly.

One case in point was very striking. A gentleman sickened with influenza of what, in endeavoring to describe it, I have termed the "chronic" type. Never ill enough to stay in bed, and scarcely well enough to be out of it, he was troubled with dry "hacking" cough for many days. Scarcely any secretion was expelled from his lungs, in which there lay lodged, with a desperate tenacity, a small quantity of viscid exudation. With the aid of suitable internal remedies he gained ground very slowly. The liniment of camphor and ammonia (Lin. camph. co.) was prescribed for him, and helped him but slightly. Goose-grease was added, and its effect became at once apparent. In a day or so, being much better, this

oil was omitted, and he became bad again. It was repeated at each application, and great benefit followed. A second and a third time he omitted the goose-grease, and the cough and the distress returned. It was rapidly removed, however, by an unceasing application of it. This gentleman, being convinced of its efficacy, mainly attributes this recovery to its specific action on his chest. Another instance, at this time, was that of a gentleman who had a cough for two months, and had suitable prescriptions prepared for it. They relieved him but little. At the end of the two months he was recommended an application of this oil, and I am a personal witness of the complete removal of his cough by no other remedy than it, after three or four days.

Of its penetration there is no doubt. I have seen it remove, in a distinct way, muscular rheumatism, when rubbed in. Thickening in the neighborhood of joints after sprains, or subacute rheumatic inflammation, will be greatly aided towards resolution by its use.

Another manner in which I have witnessed marked benefit result from its use is in the case of wasting, or marasmus. When rubbed into the abdomen and groins of young children it is a decided nutrient, and experience has convinced me of its efficacy. It can be eaten on bread with salt, and in this way, if freshly prepared, is very palatable and nutritious.

If a further illustration of its powers were wanted, its use by sportsmen supplies it aptly. I have been told by experts on firearms that it is not a good thing to too liberally apply to guns, "as it is far too penetrating," "it eats or worms its way" into every conceivable crevice.

As a basis for liniments, or the softer kinds of ointment, when the effect is desired upon the underlying tissues, I can conceive no better substance to "carry in" a drug into the deeper parts. It far exceeds lard in efficacy, and, than vegetable oils, I hold that it possesses far greater permeating qualities. It is liable, I believe, to become rancid, but I have kept it for many weeks by the simple addition of some boric acid. Active drugs incorporated with it will, when applied externally, be under the best conditions for permeation through the skin, and it will not lie on the surface unabsorbed so much as other oils.

At this juncture, it strikes me, others might give their experience of this substance if they have used it. Its popularity appears to be chiefly confined to Ireland, and mainly, I should imagine, to country districts; but that in this substance we have an excellent vehicle for the inunction of drugs in various diseases I am so convinced that, in place of a needless intrusion, my bringing it forward to the notice of the profession has become almost my imperative duty.—(*Dublin Journal of Medical Science*) *Pharmaceutical Journal*.