

Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association

The annual general meeting of the Pharmaceutical Association of Manitoba was held at the Clarendon Hotel, in the city of Winnipeg, Wednesday, the 16th day of February, 1898. It was opened at 8 p.m. by the president, Mr. Charles Flexon. A goodly number of association members were in attendance. Among those present were Chas. Flexon, John F. Howard, E. D. Martin, J. C. Gordon, E. T. Howard, W. Pulford, A. R. Leonard, H. E. Butcher, D. W. O. B. Hutton, Alex. Campbell, Austin Francis, H. A. Wise, T. G. Poyntz, W. D. Macdougall.

The President opened the meeting with the following interesting and appropriate address :

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Gentlemen,—It would be unpardonable of me were I not to take the earliest opportunity of paying respect to the memory of a very highly esteemed member of our association. I refer to the late Dr. Fleming, of Brandon, whose sudden death was one of the severest shocks this country has ever sustained. No country can afford to lose men of such incomparable qualities as were possessed by the doctor—a citizen with those parts that mark a man as indispensable for fostering and fortifying all that is good and noble in society. I regret I never had the pleasure of meeting him ; but judging by what has been told me, by those whose personal acquaintance entitle them to speak, no doubt exists in my mind that his death was a loss, as great to the church and the Sunday-school as it was to his closest friends. A loss, perhaps, greater to the noble profession to which he was a credit and an ornament. A loss, the greatest, to his wife and family, to whom the widest sympathy of the Dominion has been extended. It is not often that we are called upon to record a death in our ranks, and when in an instant the Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association is deprived of one of its best and brightest members, the shock forces upon us the serious contemplation of the brevity and duties of life. The only consolation left us is that he was unremitting in the religious service of others, to the last moment.

To those in whose service he has labored, and to whom he is accountable for his stewardship, no more pleasing task can befall the president of any corporation than that of being able to submit a clear and satisfactory budget. At our annual meeting, held in the month of July last, reference was made by me to the then present financial and other conditions of the Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association, and in contrasting them with the affairs of older pharmaceutical bodies to the east of us, I ventured the opinion that we had nothing to be ashamed of.

Thanks to the integrity and the business qualities of our registrar, the financial statement now presented indicates true vigor, and will, I believe, receive the approval of the association.

In the assets you will notice an item of \$250 against the Ontario Mining Company, and another item of \$377 against members and clerks for fees in arrears. I am not prepared to say what the ultimate disposal of the first item may be, but of the second there can be but one opinion by gentlemen present—that prosecution must be the penalty for all who do not pay their fees. It is a shame and a disgrace that men should be so regardless of their duty to honest and honorable motives. A Pharmacy Act—and a first-class one it is—has been given us for our guidance, and unless we obey its provisions we must suffer. I would advise the members on this occasion to move unanimously that the registrar send a copy of section 22 of the Act to each delinquent of two years' standing, with the authority to prosecute within thirty days. Some such strict measure must be adopted to make men cognizant of the law and of decency. The item of \$236.89 for apparatus and supplies at the college is made up as below. It is gratifying to know that we have at last started a library! That it should be fifty times as large goes without saying. A gratuitous supply of books from generous and wealthy publishers would, at this stage of our history, be very acceptable and receive our warmest acknowledgments. Perhaps a gentle and ingenious request along this line would not be entirely fruitless. The equipment of the laboratory is constantly brought up to the requirements for sound teaching and for the accommodation of the students. In this respect the steady improvement of the finances has enabled the council to turn a large share of its attention to the essentials for proper training in the pharmaceutical laboratory at the medical college. Thorough methods for imparting knowledge by a professor in chemistry, botany, materia medica, or any other science, are dependent mainly upon the love for his work, and undoubtedly upon the facilities placed at his disposal. The defects of the past have been largely remedied by the council in their wisdom by the appropriation of sufficient money in assisting Dr. Hutton in doing better and more practical work than hitherto. The importance of practical laboratory work cannot be too strongly urged. It must be with feelings of relief and pleasure to any of our interested members on visiting the college to have shown them some rare chemically pure samples of potassium acetate, potassium manganate, potassium permanganate, potassium iodide, potassium iodate, the magnesium carbonates—light and heavy—and their oxides light and heavy ; the three vitriols,

zinc sulphate, iron sulphate and copper sulphate ; besides calomel, corrosive sublimate and other chemical compounds, which are turned out by the young men now taking their major course of lectures. The visitor would, on inquiring, find a more contented and a more hopeful class of students than one expected to find not so far back in our history.

In dealing with the annual statement I find myself placed in a somewhat delicate position. You will remember when our finances were brought to a critical condition by the rascality of a former Registrar, that I took occasion to urge a reduction of the examiner's fee from \$20.00 to \$10.00. It was not because I considered \$10.00 enough, but that \$20.00 was too much in view of necessary retrenchment. Now that we are getting strong and lusty, it will not, perhaps, be asking too much of you to strike the happy medium, and for some time to come, at all events, fix the fee at \$15.00. In arriving at a decision on this question, it must not be forgotten that at the Ontario College, as I pointed out at our last annual meeting, there is an examiner for each of the six subjects who receives a fee of \$20.00, thus causing an outlay of \$120.00 for every regular examination. Should you make our fee \$15.00 as suggested by me, our outlay will be \$45.00. My position is rendered all the more delicate, as I am one of the examiners, but I assure you the task of conducting an examination in two subjects, as is the custom here, is well worth the sum mentioned.

We have now 79 druggists doing business within the Province as compared with 67 of last year, and our total membership is exactly 100. It is to be sincerely hoped that this increase is warranted by an increase in our population, and that prosperity is an abiding companion of my brothers of the craft. The desire of emigrating to the Klondike is perhaps not so general with the druggists of Manitoba as with those of other provinces ; but, after all, that is no index to the condition of our trade.

We very likely do not give vent to our feelings as much as others. We are a silent and long-suffering people in this prairie country. Especially when it comes to rushing through the Legislature, without our knowledge and consent, odious amendments to the liquor law, odious to us because of their absurdity and of the gross injustice perpetrated on an innocent public. It is now impossible, in cases of emergency, for a person who would dream of going into a liquor-store or a bar-room, to purchase the smallest quantity of brandy or port wine or such like without first procuring an order or a prescription from a doctor.

Just imagine a distracted mother running to the doctor's office, most likely to find it for the time vacant ; the doctor is visiting his patients. She must go to another medical man, a stranger, and if she should be fortunate enough to find him in, how monstrous and ridiculous is the motive of her visit. It is for us to