

morning and evening editions of the papers named, in all cases practically alike, and, singularly enough, in the form of advertisement frequently used by Edmanson & Bates and rarely or never used by McKendry & Co. The date in question forms one of the regular days, we understand, for the insertion of Edmanson & Bates' advertisements, yet in no other part of these papers we noticed their usual advertisement. The time is peculiarly appropriate for impressing upon the retail druggists that Edmanson & Bates are their staunch friends and supporters, and it has apparently been made good use of.

Assuming that McKendry & Co. were likely to receive benefit from such a form of advertisement, and that they were alone responsible for the insertion and payment for it, we are at a loss to find them placing it in papers in which they do not regularly advertise and, at the same time, neglecting their special paper, *The Evening Telegram*, which goes into the majority of city homes, where it would be most likely to prove productive of the results they would desire.

There is such a form of advertising as "mutual abuse advertising," usually paid for by both parties interested; and while we are loth to charge the patent medicine firm with guilty knowledge, connivance or responsibility, we must say that, to us at least, the circumstances surrounding this are disagreeably suspicious. One dollar and ten cents paid for the issuance of a nominal writ would be, in our opinion, a cheap and satisfactory method of securing notoriety for both, and if it did not give rise to suspicion would be profitable as well. Read the advertisement carefully and find out who should pay for it and who should believe it. If our suspicions are wrong we regret having to entertain them, but if they are well founded, the matter is one which would completely shatter our faith in the unanimous support of the patent medicine manufacturers.

Here is the item: Toronto druggists have been feeling very sore for some time at the manner in which the large departmental stores are cutting prices. Refusals to sell them goods proved ineffectual, because smaller dealers were constantly failing, and the big dealers could pick up their stocks and sell them at less than wholesale.

But still the patent medicine manufacturers claimed the right to fix the retail prices, and to test this right Edmanson Bates & Co., the Canadian agents for Dr. Chase's remedies, have taken upon them-

selves to apply to the courts for an injunction against McKendry & Co.

Irving and Jameson, solicitors, on behalf of Edmanson, Bates & Co., 45 Lombard street, Toronto, this morning served notice of action on McKendry & Co., departmental dealers, Yonge street, threatening to apply to the courts for an injunction restraining the latter from selling their goods below cost. The plaintiffs allege that McKendry & Co. have been selling Dr. Chase's remedies retail at prices less than wholesale.

The plaintiffs say that they will certainly test this matter in the courts if McKendry & Co. continue to cut their prices in this way. They say they intend to see the matter through, and have the rights of the manufacturers to fix prices determined. *Chase's Pills must not and will not be sold at nine cents a box, as advertised, when the regular retail price is 25 cents. That is their position.*

But Mr. McKendry, who has one of the leading departmental stores in Toronto, thinks differently. To a *Mail and Empire* reporter he was very outspoken. "We have been notified by Edmanson, Bates & Co. that they wanted us to sell Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills at fixed prices. We don't propose to be dictated to by this firm or any other firm as to what price we shall ask for our goods.

"I presume it is their business to sell at whatever price they please to the wholesale druggists, and it is ours to sell to our customers at whatever price we please.

"If manufacturers are allowed to dictate prices to us, we might as well close up shop, because there are many lines of goods to-day selling at less money than it costs to produce them.

"There are wheels within wheels in commerce, and without letting you into the full secret, we hereby say that we intend to do as we please in regard to prices.

"We are constantly buying stocks of merchandise from one cause and another for much less than it costs to produce them. Would it not be ridiculous to suppose that goods bought in this way must be sold to suit the original manufacturers? They must think we are crazy."

Points in Dispensing.

At a recent meeting of the Liverpool Pharmaceutical Students' Society a member said he had frequently had to send out a mixture of equal parts of cod liver oil and Parrish's syrup, and as it was anything but a slightly compound when finished, he tried to make an emulsion, using mucilage of acacia or tragacanth. That answered fairly well, but the dose was too much increased in bulk, so he had to try and devise an alternative, and found this in tincture of quillaja. If thirty minims of tincture of quillaja be used for each ounce of oil in the mixture,

a perfect emulsion is at once formed, and as elegant a preparation as is possible with such a combination of ingredients is the result.

As an instance of the peculiar way in which the directions of some prescriptions were drawn up, the following was placed before the meeting:

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Directions.—Six drops to be taken in half a wineglassful of water three times a day, five or ten minutes to half an hour before meals, or five or ten minutes to an hour or two after meals.

The next communication was in relation to a rather nice point in dispensing.

A member had dispensed a mixture of quinine, potassium, iodide, and hydrobromic acid, made up with peppermint water, and was surprised to see after a short time unmistakable evidence of iodine being liberated from the iodide. The iodide on examination proved to be free from iodate, and the other ingredients pure also, except the peppermint water, which in the stock bottle had a distinct odor of nitrous ether. This was finally explained by a mixture containing spirit of nitre having been made up direct by pouring the peppermint water into the bottle in which the mixture was dispensed, and the volatile nitrous ether passing into the peppermint water stock bottle by displacement had thus contaminated the whole lot. This peppermint water readily liberated iodine from an acidulated solution of an iodide. The president said he had had a similar experience with distilled water spoiled with *elixir phosphori*, and H. Wyatt, jr., gave an instance in which distilled water had become contaminated with ammonia. These distilled waters should always be poured into a measure before filling up dispensing phials with them, or bottles fitted with glass taps should be used, and then the contents can be run off without any risk.—*American Druggist.*

Hints in Stock-taking.

The contents of shelf bottles for inventory purposes may be quickly and approximately measured by comparison with a rule or gauge attached to a shelf in a perpendicular position and graduated with a scale of inches and parts of inches. The first step in the application of this plan is to find the exact amount of tincture or other liquid in each inch of height as contained in a pint shelf bottle, and then measure up all the pint bottles. The same process applies to the quarts, half-gallon and gallon bottles. Another time-saving expedient may be used in calculating, say, the number of pills in a bottle. For instance, a bottle contained 1,000 pills, how many does it now contain? Carefully weigh 1 dram, and count them, then ascertain how many drams of pills there are, and you have the number. Broken sacks of corks can be quickly counted in the same way.