

much in evidence as in Toronto, where two of the largest in Canada carry on, in connection with their multifarious departments, regularly appointed drug stores, in which the prices from a few ounces of Epsom salts to the prescription containing costly ingredients, and necessitating the utmost skill in dispensing, are cut down to such low figures as to leave the well-known "druggists' profits" out of sight altogether. There is, however, no reason why the druggist, who thoroughly understands business methods and is correspondingly capable in the pharmacy, should not do well. There are possibilities for all, and the exercise of judgment and business tact, and a strict adherence to thoroughly honest as well as skilful work in the laboratory and behind the counter will ensure success, not, possibly, as easily or as quickly obtained as in years gone by, but as certainly, provided the qualifications we have named exist.

Taking Canada as a whole, the business outlook is promising, the country in all its various sections is on the eve, we believe, of a period of activity and commercial development, which bids fair to exceed anything in its history, and the influx of population and money must prove a wonderful stimulus to trade, a goodly portion of which must naturally fall into the hands of the deserving pharmacist.

Pharmacy in England.

Bergamot at 78 cents—Photographic Business and the Bicycle Boom—Dr. De Vrij and the Hanbury Gold Medal—Erythrol Tetra-nitrate, a New Vasodilator—Chinosol, a Successful Iodoform Substitute.

(From our own Correspondent.)

I suppose there is hardly a chemist who has not experienced difficulty in obtaining what he considers "pure" oil of lemons and bergamot. For years past it has been recognized as almost hopeless by the English wholesale trade, as it appeared as if no genuine oil was permitted to be exported from Sicily, even if it was produced. It has become such an accepted fact by the Italian manufacturer that a percentage of other bodies than genuine oil can be introduced for the export trade, in order to make fictitious prices, that they now confidently assert that the English trade do not require a pure article. Of recent years some attempt has been made to break down this extraordinary superstition, but genuine oil is always more difficult to obtain than cheap adulterated articles. A recent exposure, however, of oil of bergamot that had been offered to the trade at 78 cents per lb., should open the eyes of the chemist and make some of them insist on a guarantee or chemical analysis. This

article, that from the price was obviously not genuine, was examined by another competitor who announces that it contained only 25 per cent. of genuine oil of bergamot, the remainder consisting of turpentine and inferior oil of lemons! They clinch the matter also by detailing the following account of their transaction: After passing an order for a large quantity of this oil, they examined a sample taken on its arrival at the London docks, with the result above stated. They then declined to accept delivery, and the Sicilian manufacturer took it all back at his own expense. More than this it is alleged that an enquiry since addressed to this same 78 cent-a-lb. firm has been replied to by them lately, saying that genuine oil of bergamot is \$3.25 per lb. This seems a dead give away. But the whole subject is in a very unsatisfactory position, and the gross adulteration practised should receive attention at the hands of the Government.

The bicycle boom, although not so great this year as last, has hit the photographic business very severely. There are signs, however, that photography amongst amateurs is slowly on the increase, although there has not been the phenomenal enquiry that started some four or five years ago. Perhaps the photographic accessory manufacturers are themselves somewhat to blame as they placed very long prices on their specialities and kept their advertisement contracts down as low as possible. There can be little doubt that a good quarter plate hand camera, with a good lens, iris, diaphragm and arrangements for time and instantaneous exposure should be easily made to sell at a profit at a price somewhere about \$5, whereas all the good makers want at least double this sum and sometimes three times the amount. Again a good maker should surely guarantee his camera, just as the Dunlop Tyre Company do their tyres, and if an accident happen or anything go wrong, not the result of carelessness, etc., should undertake to put it right free of charge. I examined a well-known hand camera for a friend the other day and found that in at least twenty per cent. of the snapshots the shutter missed acting altogether. It only required a little adjusting, but the makers had declined responsibility, suggesting that the action must have been affected by the railway journey. Chemists are largely taking up the supply of photographic chemicals in England, and advertise a dark room as available to their customers. It is advisable that they should either be amateur photographers themselves or should have received some instruction in the subject, so that they can meet the numerous little questions that will crop up from those who are only feeling their way into the fascinating field of photography.

The conferring of the Hanbury Gold Medal upon Dr. de Vrij is a well-deserved, but somewhat tardy, recognition of the veteran quinologist's work. In his 85th year de Vrij holds an unique position re-

specting the history of the cinchona alkaloids, as for more than forty years his position as an authority has been unquestioned. It is true that some of his methods and tests have been attacked, especially by his younger German confrere, Dr. Hesse, another Hanbury Gold Medalist, but the name of de Vrij will always be associated with cinchona. He has been an honorary member of the Pharmaceutical Society since 1856, and in 1880 was made a Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire for his contributions to science. It is curious that the importance of quinine and cinchona is reflected by the fact that no less than three of the nine Hanbury Medallists have made their names in this subject—Howard, Hesse and De Vrij.

Erythrol tetra-nitrate is being prescribed by one or two prominent west-end physicians, and some enquiry as to its use, etc., has arisen. It was first brought prominently into notice by the Bradshaw lectures in 1895. It was there shown that erythrol tetra-nitrate has some distinct advantages over trinitrine (nitro glycerine) as a vaso dilator. Some idea appears to exist that, like nitro-glycerine, it is of an explosive nature. This is quite a mistake, and nitro-glycerine in the ordinary B.P. strength of 1 per cent. is also absolutely harmless. Some chemists appear to have declined to make up pills containing $\frac{1}{2}$ minim of nitro-glycerine solution under the impression that "something might happen."

Chinosol is one of the few iodoform and carbolic acid substitutes that has attained any degree of popularity. It is an oxy-quinoline compound, having aromatic odor and astringent taste. Its bright yellow color may have helped it in its competition with iodoform, and its free solubility in water is, of course, a great advantage. As usual, the earlier reports as to the extraordinary antiseptic strength of these bodies have been modified in the light of more extended bacteriological experience. It is claimed that a 1 in 10,000 solution is more effective than a 1 in 20 solution of carbolic acid. Be that as it may, authorities have suggested that when used in midwifery for rinsing the hands, a 5 per cent. solution, at least, should be employed. The fact that the solution does not stain, and is practically harmless to human and animal life, is all in favor of chinosol improving its position as an acknowledged antiseptic and bactericide. It is dearer than iodoform, and is manufactured in Germany, where the name was registered with an effective trade mark in the shape of three owls perched on a branch.

SOZOBOROL.—Is a mixture of aristol, sozoiolol, and borates, recommended as a "cold cure," or in the treatment of influenza, etc.

SANAL.—An ointment consisting of litharge, red bolus, calamine, balsam of Peru, yellow wax, and petrolatum, which is used in treating open sores, etc.