

menement of last year, been entitled to become apothecaries, and nine, having already completed the preparatory studies at Zurich, have availed themselves of the right to pass the Russian examinations. The owners of dispensaries appear, however, to be averse to receiving such ladies as students, and so far none of them have succeeded in gaining admission to any establishment in St. Petersburg.—*Pacific Drug Review.*

Quebec Pharmaceutical Association.

The following were elected officers of this Association at their annual meeting:

President,	Henry R. Gray, Montreal.
1st Vice-Pres.,	Jos. E. Morrison, Quebec.
2nd "	R. W. Williams, Three-Rivers.
Treasurer,	A. Manson, Montreal.
Asst. Treas. & Secy-Regis. }	E. Muir, Montreal.
John T. Lyons, Mont.	W. S. Kerry, Mont.
C. A. Nelson, "	J. R. Parkin, "
A. E. DuBerger, "	Rod. Carriere, "
Jos. A. Dawson, "	A. LaRue, Quebec.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS.

Henry R. Gray, Montreal, Chairman.
A. Manson, Mont. Jos. E. Morrison, Quebec.
S. Lachanco, " R. W. Williams, Three-Rivers.
J. T. Lyons, " A. E. DuBerger, Waterloo.
E. Muir, Montreal, Secretary of Board.

PRELIMINARY EXAMINERS.

For Montreal—W. S. Kerry, A. E. DuBerger, C. E. Scarff.
For Quebec—P. F. Rinfret, Wm. B. Rogers, J. I. LaRoche.

Olive Oil.

BY A. B. STEWART, M. A., PH. G.

ON the 15th of June, 1871, the writer bottled twelve two ounce bottles of pure olive oil, which were boxed and kept on a garret in darkness, and where the temperature in winter was not sufficient to cause precipitation of margarin. On the 15th of June, 1891, the oil was examined; three bottles had precipitated 25 per cent. of margarin, four 20 per cent. and five 16 to 18 of margarin. When placed in hot water the oil instantly became deep green in color and transparent; on being placed in a dark closet for 24 hours it became opaque, 34 hours longer deposited about $\frac{1}{10}$ margarin, and after 7 days complete precipitation took place; when exposed to the light of the sun the margarin would rise toward the top, and in a few seconds the solid part would become translucent. It then becomes obvious that age and darkness cause precipitates, to a greater or less extent, of the margarin contained in all oils, from the fact that on repeated closeting of the oil precipitation would occur, while sun-light would render it translucent and transparent. This oil was then subjected to chemical tests for purity. Mercury $18\frac{1}{2}$ grs., and nitric acid $21\frac{1}{2}$ grs., sp. gr. 1.35, were mixed with the oil, which failed after a few hours to be converted into a solid mass. Sulphuric acid, by a tinge of rose-color, in three or four shakings in the test tube, revealed the presence of poppy oil. Nitric acid failed to reveal the green color given to the pure oil. Equal parts of nitric and

sulphuric acids mixed with equal weights of the oil neither revealed a bright yellow color of the pure oil nor the beautiful deep green color of the oil of sesamum. After testing pure lard oil, the results were compared and revealed that what was apparently pure olive oil, was in reality lard oil with a variable proportion of cotton seed oil and minute traces of poppy oil.—*Phil. J. of Pharmacy.*

Pharmacists' Symbols

THE art of the pharmacist is old; it is assuredly of pre-historic origin. The reader of Dioscorides or of Pliny is astonished at the number of herbs and other things used as medicines, and the complexity of many popular prescriptions. Referring to the pharmacist, it is curiously observed in "Ecclesiasticus" that "of his works there shall be no end." In other days than ours there was evidently a morbid taste for the multiplication of remedies of doubtful worth—a deplorable infirmity of many physicians.

It is stated by Ebers, in his "Egyptian Princess," that each of the Egyptian temples had its laboratory and apothecary. There is a list of two hundred drugs which were kept in the temple of Edfu. But just when the preparation and sale of medicines became a special business cannot be stated. In early times it was customary for the physician to compound his own prescriptions, as is done in rural places yet. Mr. Fort remarks that "toward the conclusion of the third century the first indications present themselves of the existence of a class of (Roman) citizens to whose vigilante care was confided the preparation of medicaments ordered by attendant physicians." The same writer says: "The storage of medicinal supplies seems to have approximated the pharmacy in the twelfth century, although even earlier the word *apothecary* appears to have been interchangeable with the booth where assorted wares were offered at public sale." At the end of the twelfth century the Bishop of London was named *apothecarius* or pharmacist, to King Henry, a fact which proves that the art of Bolus was then, at least highly esteemed.

Now, although the establishment of the pharmacist has mysteries in abundance connected with it, the special symbols pertaining to the business are but few. The chief and most characteristic one is the mortar and pestle. In Larwood and Hotten's interesting book it is said: "One of the signs originally used exclusively by apothecaries was the mortar and pestle, their well-known implements for pounding drugs." In an attractive form and generally gilded it is to be seen at nearly all pharmacies in this country. Only occasionally is it pictured. I know an instance in Philadelphia where Cupid is represented in connection with it; but this is as absurd an addition as the negro youth who is using the pestle in another. An eagle—the national bird—is sometimes represented hovering over it. The

pestle used for grinding corn was deified by the Romans under the name of *Pilumnus*. In connection with the mortar it is highly spoken of in the sacred books of the Hindus.

The skull and cross-bones has come to be of pharmaceutical significance. Placed on the label of a vial, it implies that the contents are poisonous, and should be used with intelligence and care. It has been in use from an early date as an emblem of death. Formerly, it was often placed on tombstones.

The reference to the "art of the apothecary," made in the Bible, has been regarded as "the first recorded notice upon the subject of medicine and pharmacy,"—as, for example, by the late professor, Dr. George B. Wood; but here we have explicit evidence that farther back, say 1,000 years before the time of Moses, people were in the habit of having medicines stored in vases of a set kind, and that the Babylonians had considerable pharmaceutical knowledge, as well as their medical practice was not exclusively magical; or, as Mr. Halevy puts it, "it proves that the Babylonians were in possession of a rational medicine as well as a magical one." He further remarks that it is "the only known specimen of an Assyro-Babylonian prescription."—*Medical Symbolism.*

New Compounds not Therapeutically Described.

MERCURY AND ZINC, ACETATE.—Whiteish powder, soluble in water.

IRON-BORO-LACTATE.—Greenish powder, soluble in water.

IRON BROMO LACTATE.—Slightly yellowish, hygroscopic, crystalline powder.

LEAD ACETO-TARTRATE.—White or translucent crystals, clearly soluble in water.

LEAD OXY-CHLORIDE.—Chemically Pure Powder, is of a yellow color and insoluble in water, etc.

LITHIUM FLUORIDE, PURE.—Colorless, imperfectly crystalline powder, difficultly soluble in water.

IODINE CYANIDE.—White laminated crystals, which readily turn red; easily soluble in ether and in alcohol, less so in water.

MERCURY BI-CHROMATE.—A beautifully red, heavy, crystalline powder, not soluble in the ordinary solvents. Heat decomposes the salt, metallic mercury being surrendered.—*Merck's Bulletin.*

NOT DISPENSED AT CUT RATES.—The following is a prescription that seldom falls into the hands of the cutters:

R Honesty.
Industry.
Sobriety.
Constancy.
Economy, aa. q. s.
M—Ft.

This is a true and sure preparation for success in life, if persistently carried out.—*Myers Bros.' Druggist.*