

money is a very useful article in this world; second, because the effort to make it is a stimulant to business, but keep it secondary a means to an end, not the end for which we live, for if to make money is all we live for, then as we cannot take our money with us, life must be more or less of a failure. Again, some look on ambition to be leaders in society or in politics as filling out the measure of their life. And these are not bad things in themselves, if they are used to benefit ourselves and others, but if only to gratify personal pride, again life is a failure, that is, unless the sixty or seventy years here is all of life. If it is, then to get the most personal pleasure out of it is, at least, natural, but surely we believe that man, who has accomplished so much even with his brain, not to mention any higher attribute, must have a career of longer duration than sixty or seventy years, and so, there must be a stage of existence where at least money is not a factor, seeing that we cannot take that with us.

To prepare for that stage of existence the higher nature should be cultivated.

There is not one of us who does not believe that there is something more in us than just spending our life grubbing a grave for ourselves. And so feeling and believing that, then we are not here to only cultivate wealth, power, ambition, for they all belong to this life, but we are here that we may use all those things to make us better, nobler men.

But now let us get a little closer home, and ask why are we in this world as druggists? Some will answer I am a druggist by accident, some may say by choice am I here, some I want to make money, some again to have an easy, respectable living. Some perhaps will say I am a druggist by mistake. Gentlemen, if we look on ourselves as men, something more than mere playthings of fortune, we will give none of these answers. There is a dignity about our profession which impresses me more and more the longer I live; it is equalled of course, but I doubt if it is surpassed, by even the medical profession, when a prescription is placed in our hands for preparation. Let us ask ourselves why is this given to me? I hold in my hands what may be either life or death to some fellow-creature, and it is a tremendous responsibility.

Again why? Because we are supposed to have knowledge. Because we are thought to be honest. Because we are believed to be careful. Now, if in any one of these things we come short we are betraying a trust.

When we think of the responsibility and importance attached to the putting up of that prescription, do we not need to have our brains clear? And should we not ask help from a higher power? Every morning I ask my Heavenly Father to keep me from making mistakes through the day. There is one thing that must be apparent to every man, if we are to be careful, no such thing as intoxicating

liquor should ever enter our mouth to muddle our brain. If any man should be a sober man it is a druggist; and he cannot indulge in alcoholic drinks out of business hours, for it makes him unfit to hold the life of another person in his hands, not to speak from a moral or ethical point of view.

But let us ask a still closer question. Why are we here as a pharmaceutical society? Is it just to have a place of meeting, an outing for a day, ending with a fine dinner, and nothing more? I would say no; that scheme would make us children not men. Men are in this world to think and learn, not to spend their time in pleasure alone, though do not understand me as denouncing a jolly time. I believe in it, provided all our time is not spent in that kind of thing. I think our dignity, not to mention any higher motive, demands something more than that. We are here to compare notes to help each other to a better knowledge of our profession; help each other to be nobler men; in a word, help each other to be true druggists and true men, not mere money-making machines or pleasure-seekers.

I hope the New Brunswick Pharmaceutical Society will improve in some of these particulars. The way to do it is a matter for discussion; but I think there should be some change, so that this society need not be ashamed to meet any sister society anywhere.

Mr. Clark was enthusiastically applauded at the close of the reading, and Mr. Wm. Hawker, in moving a vote of thanks, remarked that he felt certain that all the members were in sympathy with the noble sentiments so thoughtfully expressed and so beautifully and clearly stated by the writer.

Mr. W. H. Mowatt then read a short paper detailing his experience in preparing aromatic spirits of ammonia so as to obtain a *colorless* solution that did not precipitate on standing. For the retail druggist preparing small quantities at a time he advised the B.P. formula and the U.S.P. process, with some modifications. The essential oils are dissolved in the alcohol, and the solution shaken up with some moist ferric hydrate (readily prepared by diluting two drachms of liquor ferri perchlor fort to one ounce with water, and precipitating with an excess of aqua ammonia), and allowed to stand for three or four hours; dissolve the ammonia carbonate in the mixed liquor ammonia fort, and water, being careful to use only clear translucent pieces of the carbonate; filter the two solutions separately and mix, adding alcohol if necessary to complete the measure. If the spirit is a little cloudy when finished allow to stand a few days, or filter through charcoal and paper in a well-covered funnel—do not use magnesia.

It was resolved that these papers should be received and printed in the report of the proceedings.

Secretary was instructed to have report

printed, and a copy mailed to each member.

On motion to that effect the president requested Messrs. M. V. Paddock and E. Clinton Brown to read papers on pharmaceutical subjects at the next annual meeting, and Mr. R. C. Coupe a paper to be read at the annual dinner, with no restriction as to subject.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, a motion to adjourn was carried without debate.

(Signed) W. H. MOWATT.
Secretary.

Immediately at the close of the annual meeting the members of the new council were called together to elect officers for the year, with the result that Mr. Struan Robertson, of St. John, was elected president; Mr. C. H. Fairweather, of Sussex, vice-president; Hagen J. Dick, treasurer; E. Clinton Brown, secretary, and W. H. Mowatt, registrar.

In the afternoon the St. John druggists entertained their visiting brethren to a twenty-mile trip by steamer up the river to "The Cedars"—a beautiful summer resort, where some hours were spent in games and amusements, followed by the annual dinner and its usual accompaniment of speech making, etc. The return trip was enlivened with music, both vocal and instrumental, recitations, and all arrived at the wharf "in their usual health and more than their usual spirits."

Study of the American Medicinal Flora.

The Sub-Commission of the Pan-American Medical Congress appointed to study the medicinal plants of the United States has entered into an association with the Smithsonian Institution for that purpose. The attention of our readers is called to the respective circulars issued by these organizations, which we print below:

Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., May 28th, 1897.

DEAR SIR,—The Smithsonian Institution has undertaken to bring together all possible material bearing on the medicinal uses of plants in the United States. Arrangements have been made with a body representing the Pan-American Medical Congress, the Sub-Commission on Medicinal Flora of the United States, to elaborate a report on this subject, and the material when received will be turned over to them for investigation.

The accompanying detailed instructions relative to specimens and notes have been prepared by the sub-commission.

All packages and correspondence should be addressed to the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., and marked on the outside "Medicinal Plants for the U.S. National Museum."

Franks which will carry specimens, when of suitable size, together with descriptions and notes, free of postage