

care as is shown in the arrangement and display of goods and the prescription work is done in the same way, with a view to care, cleanliness, neatness and reliability? On the other hand would not the careless, dusty and inartistic window display give the impression that this was an index of the interior of the store and the work done in it? We believe our readers will agree with us that the up-to-date druggist who puts forth his best efforts to make his window, his store and the surroundings as attractive as possible is bound to be well repaid for any additional time or labor bestowed upon it—and the general public will show their appreciation by patronizing this place of business in preference to one who neglects these important features of "business bringers."

Time must be Served in a Retail Store.

The Council of the Pharmaceutical Association of the Province of Quebec has recently ruled that apprenticeship in a wholesale drug house will not count. Wholesale houses are, expressly, by clause 4052 of the Pharmacy Act, "exempt from the operation of this act so long as they confine themselves to wholesale dealing." It is evident that an apprentice cannot learn all the branches of pharmacy in a wholesale store which he would necessarily be daily in contact with in a pharmacy proper. Take dispensing, for instance. It is slowly and by degrees that an apprentice becomes acquainted with this art, and it is rarely that he is entrusted with putting up prescriptions of a dangerous character until he has been practically engaged in handling drugs some two or three years, and even then he is under the surveillance of the chief clerk or proprietor. We are of opinion that after a youth has passed his certified clerk's examination, a year spent in a manufacturing pharmacist's laboratory would be of great service to him; but from examples we have seen we do not think that three years in the routine work of such a laboratory could possibly supply the place of the same length of time spent in a pharmacy proper.

In concluding we cannot refrain from protesting against the tone of a contemporary while discussing the merits of the recent ruling. The Council of the Pharmaceutical Association is open to public criticism, and it may be that a temperate discussion of the question might induce the Council to modify its decision and permit a certified clerk to spend one year

in a manufacturing chemist's laboratory after passing his minor and before presenting himself for the major.

We quite agree with the contention of the editor of *Merck's Report* in reference to the education of the pharmacist where he says (Vol. xii., No. 7): "It is in the laboratory such as it may be, not of his college, but of his employer's store and behind the prescription desk that he slowly accumulates the quality of a true pharmacist."

The law in England requires (*vide Chemist and Druggist*, volume 52, number 937, page 561) that the candidate for examination must produce a certified declaration that he has been for three years practically engaged in the translation and dispensing of prescriptions.

Now as wholesale druggists cannot legally dispense prescriptions and in fact do not do so, it is evident that the apprentice would not have the kind of experience required in a certified clerk, if his time were spent other than in a retail drug store.

With regard to the increase of the annual fees paid by licentiates, certified clerks and registered apprentices, the Council has the law on its side, and we feel confident the Council would not have resorted to this measure without urgent necessity. The fight at Quebec was long and bitter, and it was necessary to checkmate all the tactics of the enemy, who was well supplied with funds, and from what we know of Mr. Muir, the worthy secretary and registrar, and Mr. Williams, the president, we feel satisfied there was no useless expenditure of money. It is certainly worth \$10 to any pharmacist engaged in active business to be free, to a great extent, from departmental store fake competition, and it is clearly understood that this apparently exorbitant fee will only be for the current year.

Pharmaceutical Examinations.

The sessional examinations of the Montreal College of Pharmacy closed on Thursday, March 31st, and the following students, named in order of merit, passed the December and March examinations, namely:

Materia Medica, senior class, English—G. H. Voss, prize; Alfred James Bedard, A. E. Baldwin, Allan T. Christie, F. J. Lemaistre, Moses Albert, O. H. Tansey, C. F. Covernton.

Materia medica, junior class, French—

G. Richard, prize; Miss A. A. Prevost, Hercule Guerin, Joseph Valois.

Chemistry, junior class, English—Alfred J. Bedard, prize; T. A. Swift, E. Percy Jones, Allan T. Christie, Moses Albert, A. E. Baldwin.

Chemistry, senior class, French—Gustave Richard, prize; Miss A. A. Prevost, Hercule Guerin, J. A. Goyer, S. Moisan, Gilbert Faulkner.

Botany Class—George H. Voss, prize; S. Moisan, D. R. O'Neill, P. G. Mount, C. A. Dechenes, R. Pasquin.

The annual meeting of the college will be held on Thursday, May 4th, when the prizes won by the students will be presented.

Acetylene Gas.

An interesting lecture on "Acetylene Gas as an Illuminant" was delivered April 5th in the Grand Trunk Literary and Scientific Institute rooms, Montreal, by Prof. T. D. Reed, M.D., Dean of the School of Pharmacy. The properties of the gas were explained in a lucid manner. It is a colorless gas, with a pungent smell, by which its presence in a room can be readily detected. Its specific gravity is 0.91, or about nine-tenths that of air. From burners, specially prepared for it, which were exhibited by the lecturer, it burns with a very strong, luminous white flame. One cubic foot contains 868 units of heat, somewhat greater than that of common gas, but at present its great value has only been recognized as an illuminant. It is claimed that when burning the acetylene gas only gives off about a sixth as much carbonic acid, and none of the poisonous carbonic oxide, as does coal or water gas. Shades of all colors are easily detected by the acetylene process. It is also claimed that a burner emitting one-half of a cubic foot of gas per hour will, when burning, give a light equal to 25 standard candles, whereas a burner emitting five cubic feet of ordinary gas per hour will give a light of only 18 standard candles. From an economic point of view it is claimed that there is a very large reduction in the price of this gas compared with ordinary gas.

It is not considered dangerous as regards its explosive propensities; there is also little or no danger resulting from the gas being blown out by the ignorant.

Acetylene gas, as explained by the professor, is developed from carbide by the application of water, through the aid of a generator. Its utility for stereopticon