DRUG REPORTS.

Ontario.

Business is fairly active for summer months No change of any moment to notice. Retail druggists are finding difficulty in collecting accounts, but prospects for the future are bright as crops generally never looked better.

Cantharides are slightly higher.

Ergot still has an upward tendency.

Shellacs—still higher prices looked for.

Opium—unchanged at advanced price.

Otto Rose will likely be still higher.

Quinine—unchanged.

Olive Oils—a little easier.

Sperm Oil—firm in price.

Saffron (Amer.)—higher.

Buchu Leaves—down in price.

Mustard Seed—higher.

England.

London, July 26th, 1893.

The past month has been very quiet in both Chemicals and Drugs. A fair amount of export business is reported by the export druggists, but the wholesalers generally state that trade is dull. The marked increase recorded last month in the value of green medicinal herbs is maintained, and the extracts are firm at higher rates.

An important advance has also this week taken place in Jaborandi Leaves and its alkaloid, Pilocarpine.

Damiana Leaves are also dearer.

Citric Acid is quotably higher, but without much demand.

Full rates are obtained for both Ergot and Ipecacuanha.

Mitcham Oils of Peppermint and Lavender are quoted higher in prospect of a poor crop, but nothing definite will be known until next month.

Decline is again noticeable with Cubebs, and Balsam of Peru is resuming its old price again.

Chlorate of Potash is also easier.

Oil of Cloves is quoted lower.

Complete absence of demand for Sulphate of Copper has caused a rapid fall in value, whilst Bleaching Powder and Cream of Tartar are dull and quiet, tending lower.

The Microscope in Pharmacy.

It has been but a comparatively few years since the microscope was considered not much more than an expensive luxury or a mere toy. A few scientists who were peering into the invisible things of nature (whose work few could comprehend) were using it intelligently, but, outside of this range of scientific workers, few understood its value. What a debt we owe to the men of science who study it for its own sake, regardless of its practical applications! The microscope is an outgrowth of the scientific study of nature, and when we apply it in practice we are constantly reminded of the debt we owe the men of pure science for its existence.

We read a great deal to-day in current medical and pharmaceutical literature of the microscope in pharmacy, and this, however limited, is a sphere of usefulness and of much importance to the public. The pharmacist, if he be well informed as to all the recent methods of investigation, of the means of protection to himself and the public against adulterations, must know the value of this physical instrument. A branch of microscope research especially interesting to pharmacists is the examination of powders. Many drugs when reduced to a fine state of division lose all their physical characteristics and become unrecognizable to the ordinary vision. The microscope here proves a valuable assistant in the detection of the true nature of the object under investigation.

As an example of this, the cases of senna and digitalis might be mentioned. These two drugs in the powdered state resemble each other so closely that an ordinary examination reveals no appreciable difference in their appearance. Serious results have occurred from accidental substitution of one for the other. But if they be subjected to microscopical examination, elements of difference may be easily discovered. Perhaps the best point of distinction is the hairs occurring upon the leaves. If a sample of powdered digitalis be appropriately mounted on a slide and examined under a one-fifth objective, numerous fragments of hairs will be found mixed with the debris. These, it will be noticed, are *multicellular*. Under the same conditions senna, on the contrary, exhibits *unicellular* hairs. Here, then, we have a ready, convenient, and accurate method for establishing the identity of these powders.

This is but one example of numerous cases wherein the microscope would prove a valuable assistant to the pharmacist in his daily work, and he who has not the aid of a good microscope stands seriously in his own light.—Prof. L. E. Sayre, in *New England Druggist.*

Preparations of Hypnal.

Hypnal (monochloral-antipyrin) seems to be rapidly coming to the front as a hypnotic, pure and simple. Filhene gives, in the *Berliner Klinische Wochenschrift*, the following formulæ for its administration:

Hypnal	10 gm.
Distilled water	100 gm.

Mix and dissolve. The dose is 1 tablespoonful at bed-time. In case sleep is not produced in half an hour, give a dessertspoonful.

Instead of 100 gm. of water, 80 gm. of the latter and 20 gm. of any desirable syrup may be used.

Hypnal may be given in substance if desirable. The dose is 1 to 2 gm., which should be administered in capsules or cachets.