

# THE LANCET

## THE PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA

The report of the late convention held in this city by the Pharmaceutical Association of Manitoba will be read with a good deal of interest. The closer the affinity between prescriber and dispenser is drawn, the better for both, and, paradoxical though it may appear, the stricter the line of demarcation is observed, the sounder will be their progress. The Pharmacists of the American continent have hitherto occupied a similar position to that which the retail chemist holds, across the Atlantic. But the throes of ambition, to be in every way commended and encouraged, are urging the practitioners of this art in the Western world to take a higher position in the social scale, and many of the ideas put forward at the late convention will commend themselves. The recognition, that a sound preliminary education, before entering on the special study of Pharmacy, is of primary importance, will meet with general approval, as well as the remark of one gentleman, who read a paper at the meeting, as to the position and conduct of the dispenser to the prescriber. As regards preliminary education, the requirement of a university stamp can hardly be entertained. In fact, the affiliation scheme of colleges with a university which grants a degree in any of the professions, without that of Arts being first obtained, is to be deprecated. In a young country, and in the establishing of a university often under very considerable difficulties, much lax method of procedure may be absolutely necessary, and it is therefore tolerated. But at the earliest moment the university is able, it should adopt the time-honored customs of those institutions of the Old World, whose proceedings are the outcome of experience and are hallowed by the hand of time. Divinity and Law, with few exceptions, require from their candidates an Arts degree before

the final respective examinations, and there can be little doubt that the trend of professional opinion is, that no man shall be admitted to the Profession of Medicine until he has obtained this indispensable qualification. The intelligent practice of medicine requires a more extended general education than do either of the others. A divine may be foremost in his calling and yet entirely ignorant of medical lore. A luminary of the law may attain to the wool sack, and yet be an infant in the knowledge of our art. But it is expected that the physician can take his part in theological controversy, and it is essential for him to have much more than a superficial knowledge of forensic law, besides that wide field which is now embraced in the practice of medicine over which he is required to be a proficient. Such a preliminary training it would be unreasonable to expect from the Pharmacist, whose education, however, should be all that is called for, and this should be completed prior to his special studies. We are told, and we can well understand it, that the Pharmacist in country districts, oftentimes sparsely settled, and for that matter, in crowded centres, is compelled, so as to make a living, to combine his special work with the vending of various articles which time and custom would seem to have given the Chemist a prescriptive right to sell. But in the selling of which he is now placed in active competition with the various other stores and shops, who have entered on his hitherto preserves. There can be no question that as a rule these articles can be obtained of a better quality from Chemists, who are familiar by education with them, than of the storekeeper, who takes them on the recommendation of a traveller. The trade mark here comes in, and as the dictionaries define the meaning of the word Profession as "not mercantile, not a trade," here would be a first obstacle to the professional idea. But in this socialistic age, when money makes the man, and the possession, not the manner in which it was acquired, is what the world cares about, does not the pro-