

structive display of talent, founded on subjects akin to our profession. This, I regret to say, though invitations were sent out, has not met with a ready response, still some of our members have accepted the suggestion, and I hope the beginning, though small, will develop until some one from each section will contribute a yearly paper, or take part in any other way to help make our gatherings more entertaining. I can but reiterate that suggestion and request the members to keep this idea before them, so that when the present rush of business subsides and the inevitable lull occurs, some of us can then occupy the spare time by preparing interesting papers on interesting subjects.

During the past year some of our co-workers (in the cause of suffering humanity) and members of our association residing in the City of New Westminster, where we are meeting to-night, were severe sufferers through the terrible holocaust that visited this fair city in September last. I am sure we all felt the loss these associates sustained and in sympathy with their loss stood by ready to render any tangible assistance in our power to give, or might be required of us. Happily such was not needed, though I can assure our friends, had they expressed a wish, the response would have been prompt and sufficient. We all extend a hearty congratulation for the Phoenix-like rapidity with which they have arisen from the ashes and so soon housed themselves in such handsome and commodious quarters. The wisdom and forethought exemplified by our New Westminster friends by protecting their property against such losses with a good line of insurance, thus obviating the need of and appeal for assistance, should act as an object lesson to every one in business, particularly a druggist, whose stock meets with greater destruction by fire and water than any other line of merchandise. Therefore, let your policy be keep stock well insured.

We have reached a period in our history, when I think our constitution and by-laws need a thorough overhauling. The many incongruities existing in the present act require adjusting and amending in line with past and present experience and requirements, which if effected by wise legislation, would prove most beneficial to our association and profession and at the same time afford greater protection to the public. I would therefore suggest at this meeting and to the incoming council the necessity of further legislation being obtained and that a special committee be appointed for that purpose. Some action will have to be taken in the near future to provide suitable quarters for holding our semi-annual examinations, where the student will find himself surrounded with every necessary adjunct to perform the practical portion of his examination. The

peregrination system with these examinations must also soon be changed if the attendance in the future increases proportionately as it has done in the past year. The need of suitable appliances to carry on the practical portion of these examinations with ample room was fully demonstrated at the last session. A small stock of chemicals and other necessities is also essential. I trust in speaking of this as I do, our worthy registrar will not take offence, or feel I am finding fault with any of his premises, etc. On the contrary, I feel I and the association owe him a debt of gratitude at least for his kind and thoughtful offer by giving his premises over to the free use of eight students during business hours; it is too much to expect of any individual member. We are now able to stand without asking charity. Our funds are, in my judgment, sufficient to warrant an expenditure necessary to provide, say six students at one sitting, with every necessity for dispensing. I would therefore suggest that a special committee be also appointed at the next council meeting and they to confer with the Board of Examiners, and that funds sufficient to meet this expenditure be placed at their disposal. The need of a set of text-books selected by the Examining Board to cover all the subjects in which the student is expected to prepare himself and a regular course mapped out for the primary and major examinations is very urgent. Some complaint has been made—and justly, too—by the students attending the last examination, of the difficulties they have to know what books to study. The mere mention of this, I am sure, will commend itself to the Board of Examiners, and I trust a complete compilation can soon be made to better guide the student for the future. While on this subject, I would also suggest the advisability of the examiners adhering strictly to legitimate questions and avoiding all catch questions or questions covering the composition of patent nostrums, though they may be in daily demand and sometimes ordered by the medical practitioner.

The adoption of the new British Pharmacopœia in this province by either the Board of Medical Examiners and the practising physicians or the druggists as a whole is still in abeyance. It would in my judgment be admirable for the new Council to endeavor to meet the new Medical Council and come to some mutual understanding as to when the new Pharmacopœia will be adopted, or whether it will be thrown out altogether. I regret to find an undercurrent of fear and unrest with regard to the great and disturbing question of cutting still prevalent. So far I rejoice, and I trust I but re-echo the sentiments of nearly every member of this association, if not actually every one, that the cut-rate druggist has yet to gain a firm footing in our territory. The nefarious stamp system has entered into the arena, but I trust those who have adopted it in the fear mayhap of their neighbors taking it up if they should not

will soon see the wisdom of suppressing it, as it only means the thin edge of the wedge, veiled by another covering, of the cutting system. With honor and confidence among ourselves and a united front the cut rate idea can be postponed for an indefinite period. Let us all try to keep it so.

As the subjects I have touched upon may, and I hope will, elicit some consideration and friendly discussion to-night, I will not trespass further on your time.

Again thanking you one and all for the honor and privilege of being your president for the years 1898 and 1899.

J. R. SEYMOUR.

Mr. Curtis, on rising to move a vote of thanks to the president for his very able address, felt that he had excelled all his predecessors, and thought that we might profit greatly by the suggestions made. Regarding the commercial side of our life, he with the president deprecated anything that tended toward the cutting evil. He thanked the president for the kindly references made toward those who passed through the late disaster which had visited the city of New Westminster.

Mr. Watson, who seconded the foregoing motion, thought there was room for improvement in the conduct of the examinations, and hoped that in a few years we would be able to provide a course of lectures. He cautioned the association against seeking new legislation, as he believed the present time most inopportune.

The motion, on being put by Vice-President Cochrane, was carried unanimously.

The president, having appointed Messrs. T. J. Armstrong and H. H. Watson scrutineers, they, after examination of the ballots, reported D. S. Curtis, J. Cochrane, and J. R. Seymour elected to the Council for the ensuing two years.

Messrs. H. McDowell and Charles Nelson were then reappointed auditors for the current year by the president.

A communication was received from Mr. J. Cochrane regarding proper arrangement for examinations.

Mr. T. E. Atkins said that this letter had been received by the Council and by them referred to the general meeting. He thought the first thing to be decided was whether we have a permanent place to hold the examination in.

It was then moved by T. A. Muir seconded by F. H. Hiscocks, that this Association recommend that the Council decide on Vancouver as the permanent place in which to hold the examinations and that they make the necessary arrangements to provide means for proper equipment for holding the same. Carried.

The following paper having been received from Mr. J. H. Emery, of Victoria, it was moved by E. H. Hiscocks, seconded by D. S. Curtis, that the same be printed, in the Annual Report and that the thanks of the Association be forwarded to him. Carried.

This paper, unavoidably crowded out of this issue, will appear next month.