

# CANADIAN DRUGGIST.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE GENERAL DRUG TRADE AND TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF PHARMACY.

VOL. 5.

STRATHROY, MARCH, 1893.

No. 3.

## CANADIAN DRUGGIST.

WILLIAM J. DYAS, - Editor and Publisher.

SUBSCRIPTION, \$1 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE.  
Advertising Rates on Application.

The Canadian Druggist is issued on the 15th of each month, and all matter for insertion should reach us by the 5th of the month.

All cheques or drafts to be made payable to the editor. New advertisements or changes to be addressed

CANADIAN DRUGGIST,

STRATHROY, ONTARIO.

ENGLISH OFFICE.

50 Hillside Road, Stamford Hill,  
LONDON, N.

### The Sale of Proprietary Medicines Containing Poison.

The proceedings taken against a dry goods firm in Toronto some time ago for violation of the Ontario Pharmacy Act have created a feeling of anxiety amongst the trade as to how far the decision of the courts in the matter of the sale of Proprietary Medicines containing Poisons may effect druggists. The decision of the Magistrate in the case cited was that, as the article sold contained poison, and as the vendor was not entitled to sell poisons under the Act, that it was clearly a breach of the Pharmacy Act. Now, under this same Act provision is made that Chemists or Druggists may not sell certain Poisons named in "Schedule A" of the Act without registration and obtaining the signature of the purchaser. If a Proprietary Medicine therefore, contains any of the poisons mentioned in this Schedule, is not the druggist obliged to comply with the law as to registration and sale of such medicine, or leave himself open to prosecution? But who is to say authoritatively that the medicine contains such a poison? Is the druggist to take the responsibility that properly belongs to the law-maker?

The case of a sale of Chlorodyne by a dealer is now exciting the interest of druggists in England, and the decision, which has been sustained on an appeal taken to a higher court, that the fact of its being a "patent medicine" did not permit of its being sold except by a registered chemist, is considered conclusive as to its relation to general stores, but the question has also been raised there as to whether it may be sold by a chemist un-

less the regulations relating to the sale of poisons are adhered to. The defendant's counsel in the case contended that no proprietary medicine containing poison could be sold even by a chemist unless registered in the Poisons-book. One of the Judges held that an entry should be made showing the sales of these medicines, overlooking the fact that no provision was made in the Act for any sales of such preparations.

The decision of the lower court, however, as we have before stated, was sustained, and it is probable that general dealers will be more chary in handling these goods in future.

The question is with us, however, an open one as regards the registration by druggists, and we should like to see some measures taken placing beyond doubt the responsibility of saying what medicines should be labelled poison and, if any should be registered, that such should be designated. This can be done only by the passing of an amendment or addition to the Pharmacy Act, or else the Provincial Government assuming the responsibility. Legislation may prove in many cases a boon to the man who seeks protection in his individual calling, but this is a case where legislation places him in a position of uncertainty, and requires continual amending.

### Notes on Practical Pharmacy

JOSEPH W. ENGLAND, PH. G.

Read before the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy.

**GLYCERIN SUPPOSITORIES.**—The best method of preserving these from the decomposing action of the air is to enclose them, separately, in small, wide-mouthed dry vials; tightly cork, dip cork and top of bottle in melted paraffin, and cool, when the contents will be perfectly sealed. The formula of Prof. Remington (*Amer. Jour. Pharm.*, 1892, p. 457), gives very good satisfaction. The practice of wrapping glycerin suppositories in paraffin paper or tin foil is objectionable, mainly for the reason that ignorance may lead a user to insert suppository, wrapper and all.

**SPONGE-CLEANING.**—After beating to separate mineral impurities as much as possible, macerate in dilute hydrochloric acid to dissolve lime salts, wash in cold water, knead thoroughly by hand with green soap in hot water, rinse, immerse in a 1:20 carbolic acid solution and keep for use. This is the plan followed by Dr. Gersten, who says, in his well-known

work on surgery, that sponges once used in an aseptic operation can be used again. Carefully wash out with green soap and hot water to remove fibre and blood, and then immerse in a 1:20 carbolic acid solution is all-sufficient.

**GARGLES.**—If there is any value at all in the antiseptic theory it should be carried out thoroughly. Gargles are often used in infectious conditions of the throat, and it is a logical necessity that where water is specified in their making, distilled or boiled water should always be used, whether specified by the physician or not. In the writer's experience, fluid extract of sumach has wholly replaced the older infusion of sumach, made from the berries, that used to be the delight of many physicians to prescribe in gargles.

**HAMMOND'S MIXTURE (modified).**—The original formula for Hammond's Mixture called for pyrophosphate of iron and diluted phosphoric acid. The meta-form of the acid was usually recommended. Upon suggestion, some two years ago, the physicians of the Philadelphia Hospital tried the official diluted ortho-phosphoric acid and phosphate of iron, in place of the meta-acid and pyro-salt usually used, with very excellent results; and the mixture, as modified, has been daily employed ever since. The modified formula is:

Take of

Strychnine sulphate	.....	2 grains
Iron phosphate (U.S.P., '80)	.....	300 grains
Dilute phosphoric acid	....	5 fl. drachms
Syrup of ginger	.....	4 fl. ounces
Syrup of lemon	.....	4 fl. ounces
Water	.....	a sufficient quantity to make 1 pint.

Mix by dissolving the solids in the water, which should be boiling hot, add the acid, and then the syrups.

Dose—One to two teaspoonfuls

**COPPER ARSENITE MIXTURES.** Copper Arsenite is now being more or less used in diarrhoea, and occasionally it has been ordered in mixture form, instead of the usual pill. In such cases it is advisable to add a few drops of diluted hydrochloric acid, to dissolve the arsenical salt, or if the mixture be alkaline the compound will be dissolved. Attfield states that it is wholly insoluble in water. Whether dilute HCl affects the chemical character of the arsenite is unstated by Attfield, but even if it does, it would be a most dangerous procedure to dispense the mixture simply holding it in suspension.

**ONTMENT BLOCK.**—Quite a bright idea is this new ointment slab or block made of a number of sheets of parchment