

News Items.

Fire destroyed the rear of the buildings occupied by Williams Davis Brooks and Hinchman & Sons, wholesale druggists, Detroit, Mich., on March 6th.

The demand for vaccine is something almost unprecedented in some parts of Ontario. One Ottawa druggist reports having sold over 3000 tubes in a short time.

Frederick Dutcher of St. Alban's, Vt., one of the oldest druggists in that state, died last month. Mr. Dutcher was senior partner in the Frederick Dutcher Drug Co., one of the specialties of which was Dutcher's Fly Paper, known to the Canadian trade for many years.

Pabst Malt Extract is now shipped direct from the laboratory at Montreal to fill all orders taken by wholesale drug trade. It will not be sold in less than dozen lots.

A bill has been introduced in the Legislature of the State of New York which aims to prohibit department stores from dealing in any patent or proprietary medicines or drugs of any kind whatever, or from preparing from physicians' prescriptions or otherwise any compound or mixture containing medicine or drugs.

Mr. B. Laurance, 63 Yonge street, Toronto, has concluded arrangements with the Spencer Optical Co., of New York, whereby the patent has been assigned to him of the "Expansible Spectacle and Eyeglass Frame." This article was patented in Canada Nov. 3rd, 1896; in the United States April 27th, 1897; in Great Britain Feb. 2nd, 1897; and in France March 20th, 1897. The Spencer Optical Co. will control the sale of it in all those countries except Canada, Mr. Laurance having complete control in this country.

A Successful Optical Class.

The class just graduated from the Canadian Ophthalmic College is a remarkable one, owing to the number of representative dealers, who, realizing that there is but one way to sell spectacles—the right way—made arrangements to leave their business long enough to get the necessary information.

The class, though large, showed marked attention, and passed a highly creditable examination.

During the closing exercises the prin-

cipal was held up and presented with a flattering address and something substantial in the way of a remembrance from the class.

The following were in attendance: R. A. Douglas, Barrie; H. E. Hurlburt, Thornbury; G. W. Markle, Dundas; J. H. Stephenson, Markdale; W. M. Scott, Bradford; T. W. Turff, Truro, N.S.; N. Neill, St. Thomas; G. Miller, Grimsby; F. Turner, Montreal, P.Q.; J. P. Meunier, St. John, P.Q.; L. W. Noble, London; W. H. Hewgill, Moosomin, Man.; D. C. Walterhouse, Toronto.

New Soda Sountains.

The Fletcher Mfg. Co.'s traveler, Mr. Thos. O'Brien, has just returned from a business trip to the Northwest and British Columbia.

He reports trade very good in British Columbia, especially in the larger cities.

He has sold fountains to the following druggists: H. Ryall, New Westminster, and Harry J. Rogers, of Nanaimo, B.C.

The Fletcher Mfg. Co. are to be commended for their enterprise in securing the contract from Geo. A. Bingham, of Toronto, in the face of the keenest competition, for the installation of two onyx fountains to be fitted up in the most approved manner. These will be the first onyx fountains used in Toronto and should be seen by any one intending to purchase a fountain.

Dr. W. A. Kahle.

On Wednesday, March 8th, Messrs. F. U. and H. V. Kahle, of this city, were shocked to receive a cable stating that their brother, Dr. Wm. A. Kahle, had been accidentally killed at Guanajay, Province of Pinar del Rio, Cuba. From reports it appears that the affair occurred in the following manner: Dr. Kahle was on his way to Artemis on foot when Private Sloat of the Hospital Corps stopped him to show and explain a Mauser rifle belonging to a Cuban who stood by. The magazine was loaded, and Sloat unconsciously pulled the lever, introducing a shell into the chamber. Then, not realizing what he had done, he playfully aimed the rifle at Dr. Kahle and pulled the trigger. Dr. Kahle died two hours later. The Cuban owner of the rifle seized it and fled. He was captured next morning and sent to the Cuban Chief of Police at Guanajay, where he will be held as a witness subject

to the orders of Col. Seyborn. A more melancholy affair could not be imagined. Dr. Kahle was an exceeding bright young man, born in 1865 in Venango County, Pa. He early evidenced the brilliant talents of which he was the possessor. In the first part of his career he was a druggist, and, after practising for awhile, decided to go into medicine. He received his M.D. degree from the University of New York, and for about ten years worked at the profession with his brother, Dr. C. E. Kahle, at Sistersville, West Virginia. When the war broke out, inspired by his same enthusiasm and patriotic zeal which caused the best blood of the country to place itself at the disposal of the country, Dr. Kahle enlisted as a private in the ranks of an Ohio regiment. When this regiment was mustered out Dr. Kahle's services were asked for in their medical capacity, and he was transferred to the hospital division of the 202nd New York. The last letter received from him by Mr. Francis U. Kahle announced that he had arrived in Havana on the 9th of December and had proceeded to the Province of Pinar del Rio on the 11th of the same month.

Artificial Rubber.

Two forms of artificial indiarubber, one from France, the other from Germany, are described in the *Engineer*. Textiloid, the French form, consists mainly of resinoline, obtained by treating oil with three or four times its bulk of metallic carbonates, then with nitric acid, afterwards saponifying, precipitating by means of acid, and dissolving in alcohol or ether. A hundred parts of the resinoline are mixed with twenty of zinc oxide, manganese, etc., and sixty parts of methylated spirit; after several hours the mass is kneaded for one hour or more, and finally compressed. The German substitute is prepared by the oxidation of linseed oil, to which is subsequently added prepared jute refuse or similar textile refuse. By this means a substance is produced which is claimed to possess many of the qualities of genuine india-rubber and to be capable of being manufactured into various articles hitherto made of indiarubber.

An ingenious chemist advertises scent in his window: "Try a bottle, and you will soon be on the right scent."