

the trade are also being offered from time to time at prices below that at which thoroughly reliable ones can be purchased, and, until some catastrophe occurs by the use of these impure goods, probably some dealers will continue to trifle with them.

Reliable brands or makes of every drug about which there is any question as to absolute purity are always obtainable, and it is far wiser and safer to stick to these.

#### President's Address.

The following is the address delivered by Mr. Jos. Constant, president of the Pharmaceutical Association of the Province of Quebec, at the annual meeting held at Montreal, June 11th :

GENTLEMEN,—The report just read by our zealous secretary shows in a concise manner the principal events and what has been done by your council during the year ending April 30th.

As you will have noticed, there has been nothing extraordinary, and we have had for the most part only routine business to attend to, therefore my address would not take long to finish, if I only contented myself with an analysis of the report, but, before leaving the presidential chair, and before ceasing to form part of your council, I wish to make a few observations of general interest. First, I wish to speak about

#### THE PRELIMINARY EXAMINATIONS.

I have often heard candidates, who have presented themselves at the preliminary examinations, and sometimes the parents of these candidates, reproach us with the severity of the examinations. But, although I sympathize with those who have not been successful in passing the first ordeal, I must say that our examinations are not as severe as they ought to be.

We assume, on entering the study of pharmacy, a great responsibility towards the public, and we should, in consequence, demand from our students as complete an education as that demanded by the other professions; and not only should we exact a high standard from aspirants to the study of pharmacy, but we should also continue to give them as complete a course of chemistry, materia medica, and botany as possible. In this way only will the pharmacist obtain the high standing which he should hold in society; he will have the confidence and respect of his fellow-citizens, and will be on an equality with the members of the other professions. Then the physicians with whom we come most directly in contact, knowing that we have received the education which will enable us to properly fulfil the duties of our position, will not fear to entrust the pharmacists with their prescriptions, and will have for us the same respect, and look upon us with the same regard, as they have for one of their own confrères. This will lead also (a matter of the greatest importance) to more intimate relations between

#### THE PHYSICIAN AND THE PHARMACIST.

It will become necessary, I believe, that the members of these two professions

should, from time to time, meet together and discuss matters of common interest. Medicine and pharmacy are interdependent, and we should strive to make them advance together. But we frequently have to complain of each other; thus the physician pretends that the pharmacist sometimes trespasses upon his domain, by giving advice to customers. On the other hand, the pharmacist does not think that the physician should also assume the functions of the two professions, and deprive him of the benefits for which he has already sacrificed so much. Is this charge of counter prescribing made by the physician a just one? I say it is not, at least, as a general rule. There are, no doubt, some druggists who give consultations, but I believe that the number and importance are exaggerated, and, anyhow, I am convinced that the practice is almost entirely confined to pharmacies directed by physicians. We are sometimes obliged to give advice, but we do not try to supplant the physician nor have we any pretensions to do so. We want each to remain within his proper sphere, and, although I am not quite prepared to ask for a law similar to that which exists in some of the neighboring States, by which physicians wishing to open drug stores are compelled to pass an examination before a board of pharmacy, I am of the opinion that a line of demarcation should be drawn and accord to each what is rightly his due.

I will now draw your attention to

#### PATENT MEDICINES.

Patent medicines are a curse to the physician, the pharmacist, and the public. They are an unjust and direct opposition to the physician by preventing the sick from obtaining proper advice; they deprive the pharmacist of the sale of his own preparations, and force him to keep in stock a large number of preparations which have only a limited sale; and they are injurious to the public, which, allowing itself to be cajoled by the certificates of cure, which are the complement of the advertisements, purchases the famous remedy, which often does more injury than good.

We should have in this country, as in most European countries, a commission composed of physicians and pharmacists. All demands for patents or copyrights for medicinal preparations should be submitted to this committee, with the formula, and after examination a report should be made to the government recommending or rejecting the demand. This would diminish the number of patent medicines, and the public would know that those the sale of which was allowed would be of a superior quality and incontestable value.

With your permission I would like to say a word about

#### THE SALE OF POISONS.

I know that, as a general rule, you do not sell any narcotics without taking all the necessary precautions. Although you may know the person who asks you

for a poison, you obtain all the necessary information; and you make him well understand the danger of using powerful drugs. However, in spite of all these precautions, accidents will happen, and it was only a short time ago that the coroner, in addressing the jury in a case of poisoning by morphine, criticized the Pharmacy Act. He stated that the law regulating the sale of poisons was not strict enough. I am of the same opinion, but I wish to state that the law is as the government wished to have it, because we asked for greater restrictions. I am convinced that I express your desire in saying that we are ready to accept amendments to this part of the Act, provided other branches of commerce which sell poisons are subject to the same rule. The law should not be more strict for the druggist than for other merchants; on the contrary, he should be favored, as he knows the nature of the substance which he is called upon to sell.

I would have wished to say something about

#### SUBSTITUTION.

But, as I know that no pharmacist worthy of the name is guilty of this fault, by which he would lose his good reputation, and by which public confidence, which he has till now enjoyed, would be destroyed, I will not say anything about it.

#### THE CANADIAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

The only remaining point to which I wish to draw your attention is the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association. Two years ago, at the annual meeting, I expressed the hope that we would shortly see the formation of a society of Canadian pharmacists, similar to that which exists in the United States. To-day I have the pleasure of announcing that the projected association is well under way, and that before long we will have a powerful society which will render great services to Canadian pharmacy.

Gentlemen, before finishing I must thank you for the confidence which you have placed in me since my first election as a member of your council, nine or ten years ago. You have, during that time, always re-elected me by a large vote, testifying your great appreciation of the feeble services which I have been able to render. During the last six years your council has done me the honor of making me for five years your president, and, if I have not accomplished all that this responsible position demanded, I have the conviction that I have done my best to promote the interests of the association. Before retiring from the presidency, and, as I have before said, from the council, I desire to sincerely thank my colleagues for the great aid which they have given me; each of them has assisted regularly at all meetings and has shown himself most devoted to the interests of the association, and I hope that my successor will have a council as zealous to aid him in working for our interests.