

pointed editor of the *American Journal of Pharmacy* in 1871, and has acted as Permanent Secretary of the American Pharmaceutical Association since 1867. Besides his work as editor, he has been a prolific writer upon subjects connected with chemistry, botany and materia medica. He was one of the authors of the "National Dispensatory," of which several editions have been published, and his "Organic Materia Medica" is looked upon as the authority on this subject.

In publishing the article on "Canadian Potash," by Dr. Reed, in our last number, we should have stated that it was read at the Chicago meeting of the A. P. A.

AN INTERNATIONAL PHARMACOPŒIA.

The Congress which has just concluded its labors at Chicago was one of the most notable gatherings of pharmacists ever held. Men eminent in pharmacy in all parts of the world have met and discussed questions of international importance as regards legislation, education and the pharmacopœia; and we hope that their deliberations will have some practical results, in which case this would differ from previous Congresses from which, notwithstanding the intelligence and great ability of the men engaged in them, but little of practical benefit to the profession was evolved.

Early in the course of the discussions it was apparent that the project of a universal pharmacopœia was one which met with but slight favor; in fact, we may consider this idea as exploded. It was never more than the Utopian dream of a few in whom practice was subordinated to theory, and who never considered the insurmountable difficulties which would be met with in compiling a pharmacopœia suited to the wants of every civilized nation, the preparations of which would be of the same strength in every climate and which would be accepted as the standard by every government.

The Congress, however, attacked the question of an International Pharmacopœia for potent remedies in the most practical and sensible manner, which augurs well for the success of the work which they have undertaken. If the idea of a universal pharmacopœia is chimerical, that of an international pharmacopœia for potent medicines is an eminently practical one, because in these days of constantly increasing travel due to the vast strides made during the last decade in the improvement of ocean and railroad travel, whatever neces-

sity may have existed ten or twelve years ago for such a pharmacopœia has at the present day become more urgent. Take, for instance, Canada and the United States, between which there is a constant interchange of travel, and in which two different standards are employed for potent medicines, such as aconite, opium, cannabis indicæ, digitalis, etc., of which we give a tabulated list of the tinctures and their strength according to the British and United States Pharmacopœias:

Tincture.	U. S. P.	B. P.
Aconite	1 in 2½	1 in 8
Belladonna	1 in 6¾	1 in 20
Cannabis Indicæ. 1 in 5 (herb)		1 in 20 (ext.)
Digitalis	1 in 6¾	1 in 8
Lobelin	1 in 5	1 in 8

These examples are picked at random from one class of preparations alone, and show the great risks which are daily incurred by travellers who may be compelled to have prescriptions put up in a country other than that in which they received them, and when we take into consideration the even greater diversity which exists between the continental pharmacopœias it becomes a very serious matter. All these facts point to the absolute necessity for uniformity as regards the strength of potent remedies, and will no doubt have an effect upon the various revision committees and bring about the adoption of standard preparations of these drugs. The scheme proposed by Mr. Shepard and adopted, namely, the appointing of a commission by the president, to which will be added members of the different national revision committee, is, we think, the best plan yet produced. But when this standard strength has been adopted the next question will be: Will it be taken up by the medical profession, or will they still cling to the present strength and refuse to accept the new? And before this question will be answered we will have had probably a few more international congresses to discuss the subject; but it is to be hoped that in the interval some practical work will be done towards the completion of an International Pharmacopœia for potent remedies.

Personal.

Mr. R. W. Williams, of Three Rivers, has taken a trip to Chicago to see the "greatest show on earth."

Mr. Garden, of the well-known firm of Messrs. Garden Bros., Woodstock, N.B., was in town a few days of last week.