

Canadian Druggist

WILLIAM J. DYAS, Editor and Publisher.

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A Grievance.

The agreement entered into by the executive committee of the Wholesale Druggists and Patent Medicine Manufacturers' Association, and that of the Ontario Society of Retail Druggists, is, we believe, being carried out in good faith, with every indication of a successful issue. Where distrust at one time existed confidence now reigns, and a cordial and fraternal spirit pervades the trade generally. The wholesale dealers fully recognize the advantage gained in the larger volume of goods distributed by them, the patent medicine manufacturer has fewer accounts and decreased expenses, while the retailer feels that he has the co-operation and good will of the wholesale trade. While, however, everything is going on quite as satisfactorily as could be expected, with any organization which has been so short a time in operation, yet it must be borne in mind by all parties that grievances or apparent grievances will arise which require consideration and remedy.

The retailer, on his part, should remember that in the handling of patent medicines, or goods of a similar nature, the wholesaler should not be held responsible for any promises or inducements held out by too-pushing salesmen of these goods. If a salesman, in order to increase his sales, makes promises or holds out inducements which upon reflection it will be seen cannot be carried out by the wholesale house through whom the goods are shipped, that salesman or the firm employing him should alone be held responsible for his actions. But we find frequently that the retail druggist, not always being able to dispose of the stock purchased, endeavors to place the responsibility on the house through which the goods were placed, basing his claim, it may be, on the unfulfilled promises of the selling agent, or on the plea that the goods did not turn out as represented. This is both unreasonable and unbusiness-like. The retailer, when purchasing, certainly should understand that any transaction between himself and the house represented could have no binding effect on the third party through whom the goods were shipped, except those speci-

fied in black and white, or any order turned over to them, and any wholesale house is quite justified in refusing to take back or exchange any goods which have been sold in this way.

Editorial Notes.

THE Philadelphia College of Pharmacy celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary by a banquet on April 22nd.

THE death is announced of Dr. Charles O. Curtman, of St. Louis, Mo., a prominent member of the American Pharmaceutical Association, and an able and frequent contributor to the pharmaceutical journals.

THE Board of Customs has decided that the duty on filter paper, whether cut or uncut, is 25 per cent., overruling the department decision, that when imported in sheet it should be 25 per cent., and when cut to shape at 35 per cent.

THE United States Customs officers at St. Albans, Vt., have arrested two men, W. E. Hugh, of St. Johns, Que., and H. Backus, of Bedford, Que., on a charge of smuggling phenacetine across the border. When caught Hugh had about two pounds of the drug on his person, and Backus twenty-five pounds. They were both released under bonds.

THE decision of the lower court in the case of the California Fig Syrup Company vs. Frederick Stearns & Co. has been affirmed by Judge Taft in the New York courts, holding that the term Syrup of Figs is a descriptive one, when applied to a medicine, and indicates the active medicinal quality of the fig, and that therefore no one can acquire the exclusive right to use the same as a trade mark to designate such medicine.

THE manufacture of cocoanut oil is to be one of the new Australian staple industries. Messrs. Lever Bros., of Sunlight Soap fame, have now under construction the first cocoanut oil mill in Australia. The establishment is to be one of a very complete and extensive character, capable of turning out several thousand tons of oil and oil cake per annum. Mr. Lever has selected New South Wales for his operations because Sydney is the principal port for the South Seas, whence the oil mainly comes in the form of cocoanuts.

Prosecution Under the Pharmacy Act.

A case which is likely to involve a lengthy legal fight, of great interest to the drug trade, was initiated by the lodging of an information by F. S. Warner on behalf of the Ontario College of Pharmacy against Robert Simpson, proprietor of a departmental store at the corner of Yonge and Queen streets, Toronto, charging him with unlawfully keeping open shop for retailing, dispensing, and compounding poison in contravention of the Pharmacy Act. The College of Pharmacy was represented by its solicitor, Mr. E. T. Malone, the defendant by Mr. C. H. Ritchie, Q.C.

The case was tried before Police Magistrate Denison, at the police court, April 14th. The informant produced three bottles of medicine which were dispensed by Charles P. Lusk, who is in charge of the drug department. The following were the prescriptions:

Mrs. Warner.

R. Liq. Strychnie..... 3ij

Tinct. Strophanthi..... iv

Tinct. Cinchona Co..... 3iss

Syr. Aurantii..... 3iss

Aquam Ad..... 3vi

Sig. Two drachms in water every five hours.
E.C.

Mrs. Warner.

R. Lin. Aconiti.

Lin. Saponis, aa 3j.

Sig. Apply to face three or four times a day.
G.B.S.

Mrs. Warner.

Lin. Aconiti.

Lin. Belladonnae.

Lin. Chloroformi.

Tinct. Saponis Co. aa 3j.

M. Sig. Apply as directed.

A quantity of carbolic acid was also purchased, the amount of the bill was paid to Mr. Lusk, and the money forwarded by him to the cash receiver's desk. The bottle was labelled "R. Simpson," and across the label was the name "Charles P. Lusk, druggist," done with a rubber stamp. The case was in the first place adjourned until the 21st, and again until the 23rd, when it was argued by the respective counsel. The case now goes over until some day next week, when a stated case will be prepared for the High Court, to which it will ultimately be appealed. We have deemed it wiser to refrain from making any extended remarks until after its hearing next week, and will in next issue give the points at issue.

Hemicranin is (*Pharm Zeit.*) a mixture of 5 parts of phenacetine, 1 part of caffeine, and 2 parts citric acid.