

ADULTERATION OF FOOD, &c.

The Committee met again on Friday, April 25th, in room No. 17, Mr. Scholesfield in the Chair.

Mr. JOHN JACKSON, a miller, carrying on business near Wakefield, said he was a member of a firm which had been prosecuted for vending adulterated flour; but the result of the trial was to prove that the charge was entirely unfounded. In witness's mill, nothing but pure wheat was sold; but he had no hesitation in admitting, that in almost every part of Lancashire and Yorkshire, the practice of adulteration steadily prevailed until lately, when the convictions had put a great check upon it. The fear of the extensive seizures to which the millers were liable, had produced this improvement; a fine and exposure would not have done so alone. Any inspector who might be appointed, should be a thoroughly competent person, and capable of distinguishing between the various kinds of flour; and he should also confine his attention to that one subject. The power of seizure at present was too large.

Mr. RICHTER, analytical chemist at Messrs. Savory and Moore's, said he had had considerable experience with regard to the law affecting chemists and druggists in Germany. About thirty or forty years ago the state of things in Germany was similar to that in England; but, by the introduction of a law which tended to raise the state of education of chemists, he believed the adulteration of drugs was abolished. He thought part of the law in force in Germany might with advantage be introduced into England, particularly that portion which related to the education of the chemists, and the Pharmaceutical Society of this country was already a very important institution for the accomplishment of this object. All chemists and druggists should be licensed, and undergo an examination, before being allowed to practise. In Germany there was no law as to the importation of drugs, and this was of no consequence, as many valuable preparations might be obtained from impure drugs as imported. What he should insist upon would be the purity of articles when administered to the public. He thought it also a very important matter that the difference now existing between the pharmacopœias of London, Dublin, and Edinburgh should be abolished, as the variation in the strength of the various preparations was a very serious evil. In Germany the prescriptions were written in Latin and the directions in German.

Mr. STAFFORD ALLEN, a member of a firm of drug grinders, said he believed the public had been much abused by the evidence given before the Committee with respect to the drug grinders. In 1838, when his firm was established in London, it was the general wish of the wholesale drug trade for the establishment of some grinder in whom they could have confidence. Witness was not prepared to say dishonest grinding had been entirely got rid of, but grinding was carried on in a much better way at present, and he believed drugs were never before so purely administered to the public. What was called the four per cent. system witness had never adopted; he thought it unfair to both parties. Composite powders he had also from the first refused to make or sell. Witness, in conclusion, said he did not see any benefit to be derived from legislative interference between the retail druggist and the consumer. The public were supplied with drugs in so pure a state that very little improvement could be made.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

LETTERS and other COMMUNICATIONS for the JOURNAL should be directed to the private address of the Editor, 39, Curzon Street, May Fair.

Mr. G. E. FORMAN informs us that he paid his subscription early in the year, and that his name ought therefore to have been included in the list lately published of those members who have paid their subscriptions. Mr. Forman should have sent his communication to the Secretary, Dr. Williams, to whom we have forwarded it, and from whom it will doubtless receive every attention.

We have received the Memorial of the President and Committee of the Royal College of Physicians to the Members of the Select Committee to which the Medical Reform Bills have been referred, and shall comment upon the document next week.

Papers by Dr. RADFORD and Mr. COE shall appear next week.

Communications have been received from:—MR. LEONARD; MR. COE (Bristol); DR. SIEVING; THE HON. SECRETARIES OF THE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SOCIETY; MR. STONE; THE HON. SECRETARIES OF THE WESTERN MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON; DR. JOHN SNOW; MR. W. D. HUSBAND; MR. OLIVER PENBERTON; DR. RADFORD; MR. J. K. SPENDER; MR. J. W. KEYWORTH; DR. J. M. DUNCAN; MR. AUGUSTIN PRICHARD; DR. BRINTON; MR. BROWN; DR. P. H. WILLIAMS; DR. KIDD; MR. JOHN A. POWELL; MR. RAYMOND G. DANIELL; MR. JAMES COOPER; DR. S. W. J. MEERIMAN; and MR. S. G. SLOMAN.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

TO THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

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Some of this article was forwarded to the Pharmaceutical Society, and by them subjected to a most rigid examination; the Council took up the subject at their meeting of the 2nd April, and their Report to Members will be found in the "Pharmaceutical Journal" for May.

Chemical purity and excellence having been demonstrated, the Oxide is now submitted to the Medical Profession, and, accordingly, in the first instance, a sample has been sent to the "Lancet". The Editor has shown in several former publications, the great importance it would be to obtain the pure Oxide; there can, therefore, be no doubt that he will bring the new product prominently before the Profession.

Small quantities can be had from several of the Wholesale Druggists. The manufacturers do not propose to sell a less quantity than a quarter of a ton. They have sent one ton to Messrs. HEARON, McCulloch, and Squire, 95, Bishopsgate; and are making a further quantity for Messrs. Cox and Gould, Chicksand Street, Whitechapel. Other Wholesale Houses will be supplied in the same rotation as their orders are received.

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