

thing concerning the status of pharmacists in our army. It appears that the dentist is the one who has not adequate professional recognition in France.

The *pharmacies* in the smaller towns are opened at eight or nine in the morning and closed at six in the evening—with an hour and a half out for lunch in the middle of the day. Practically all of the French stores are closed from 12 until 1:30 or 2 each day so that their proprietors may enjoy their lunches undisturbed.

There are two kinds of drug stores in France—the *pharmacie* and the *herboristerie*. The *pharmacies* are operated by trained, professional pharmacists and little is sold in them except drugs, chemicals and prescriptions. The *herboristerie*, on the other hand, is a more commercial organization. The proprietor is required to do a certain amount of studying—principally on materia medica—and is licensed to sell almost all drugs except certain poisons and, of course, is not permitted to compound prescriptions. In these stores they sell crude and household drugs, hospital and sick room supplies, perfumes, brushes, manicure articles, bandages, hair curlers, sponges, and many other similar articles of merchandise.

The *herboristerie* has a competitor in the barber shop. The barber sells toilet preparations and perfumes and makes rather an elaborate window display of his wares. A French barber shop is a peculiar institution. The barbers use the, to us, old fashioned strop on a wooden handle and their razors are seldom sharp. After the shaving ordeal is over the customer gets out of the chair and washes his own face in a nearby bowl. Then, as he goes out, he drops one or more of those heavy French coins—"clackers" the fellows called them—in a sort of coin box and a bell rings, whereupon every barber in the shop turns around and bows to him. It gives one quite a sensation.

Much has been said concerning the possibility of establishing two kinds of drug stores in the United States; perhaps it would be well to study the working of such a system as it exists in France before attempting changes in that direction here.

BACON CIPHER A TARGET OF CRITICS

There is reason for skepticism relative to the Roger Bacon cipher manuscript. Mystery seemingly surrounds the source, and the revelations are astounding. We quote the *New York Times* and *New York Tribune* on the subject:

(From the *New York Times*.)

That Roger Bacon conceived certain scientific ideas far in advance of his time has been known ever since the world came abreast of them. If, as Dr. Newbold asserts, it can now be proved that he made use of the telescope, the fact will be cheerfully accepted. It is even possible that he possessed a microscope and by means of it discovered the cellular structure of tissue and recorded the life history of a fertilized cell. But when Dr. Newbold asserts that Friar Bacon himself was five centuries in advance of his time and that if he had "made his discoveries known" the fact would have "put our scientific knowl-

edge centuries ahead of what it is today," credulity falters and is dumb.

(From the *New York Tribune*.)

This new Baconian cult has points in its favor and points against it as compared with the old Bacon-Shakespeare madness. The worst feature of its case is the uncertainty attaching to any manuscript which has kicked about Europe from possessor to possessor, for more than five centuries. The Francis Bacon believers at least had a known document to work upon—the Shakespeare texts. These delvers into Roger Bacon's intellectuals have first to convince the world that their manuscript is really the handiwork of the British monk. * * * Roger Bacon had the mental equipment for the sort of labor credited to him and he had some motive for concealing his discoveries in a cipher. * * *