

Then, what the Lawyer's Commission has done for their profession, a commission formed by the State Boards would do for our profession. In their hands would be the necessity of meeting, discussing this problem and coming to a satisfactory conclusion.

If the ground already has been broken for passing uniform State laws, as I have above indicated, there is no reason why we cannot have uniform prerequisite laws.

Therefore, my suggestion is:

First: Let the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy through the State Boards and the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION agree upon a law. Second: let this influence cause a uniform law to be adopted by all the States.

Third: Secure in the knowledge of uniform purpose, for with unity there comes strength, this movement can be carried to the central government for the enactment of a national law.

THE OLD-TIME DRUG STORE.*

BY JOHN W. BALLARD.

May 6, 1865, I walked into a drug store located at 106 West Second Street, Davenport, Iowa. For fifty-five years after that date I was in that one location either as apprentice, clerk or proprietor.

It was a real drug store. Paints and oils were the only side line. It did not resemble the present-day drug store. On the lower shelf of the first section were one-gallon tincture bottles. In these were tincture of arnica, gentian compound, Huxham's tincture, and other popular articles.

On the second shelf one-half gallon bottles in which were kept the aromatic waters; spirit of nitre, spirit of lavender, etc. On the third shelf, quart tinctures, in which were the remainder of the pharmacopœial tinctures from *Aconitum* to *Zingiberis*. The bottom shelf of the second section was given to specie jars; there were quite a number of two-gallon jars in which were kept some of the most frequently called for herbs: Senna, buchu leaves, uva ursi, etc.

On the second shelf were also half-gallon bottles in which were aloes, hiera picra, roots, barks, etc., and quarts occupied the third and top shelves. The bottle labels were of gilded paper, as the glass labels had not then appeared.

All tinctures, syrups, etc., were manufactured in the store and these from the whole roots and barks, so that Swift's drug mill and the big iron mortar were in frequent use by the apprentice. The first "ready to wear" remedy prescribed by physicians was the "Elixir Cort. Peruv. cum Ferri Protox," made by J. R. Nichols & Co., Boston.

A well-arranged prescription case was on the rear counter where the most used powders, extracts, etc., were kept. Blue mass, extracts of nux vomica, gentian, dandelion, etc., were prominent, and Dover's Powder, tartar emetic, lead acetate, etc., were conveniently at hand.

We had a fairly good prescription trade. In those days prescriptions were really compounded, for physicians prescribed the officials instead of proprietary

* Section on Historical Pharmacy, A. Ph. A., Des Moines meeting, 1925.

compounds. Sugar-coated pills had not appeared and every prescription for pills had to be made to order, except compound cathartic pills and rhubarb compound, which were kept in stock, and these uncoated.

Plasters? Yes, every one made to order from Burgundy pitch, medicated with belladonna, arnica, camphor, etc., and also emplastrum cantharidis in various shapes and sizes.

The prescription clerk was also the night clerk and had a modest room in the rear of the store or a room upstairs, and many were the calls he had to answer. Physicians carried only a small pocket case, and many prescriptions were sent in at night. Steamboating was then popular on the Mississippi River and the deck hands often had discussions which ended in seeking first aid at the drug store and the sleepy night clerk had to respond.

The convenient package dyes had not appeared, but the good housewife was just as anxious to renovate an old garment then as now, and the efficient salesman had to know the suitable dyes and mordants to use to produce the desired color. Barrels of logwood, fustic, nicwood and camwood were stored in the basement and were quite an item in the business.

Chicago and St. Louis were convenient sources of supply, but we relied largely on New York. Heavy goods, such as brimstone, copperas, blue vitriol were sent by Erie canal and then by steam around the lakes, requiring about six weeks, but at a low freight rate. Pittsburgh was the headquarters for bottles and these came by boat down the Ohio River, then up the Mississippi.

The country was new; horses were overworked and badly fed and then given condition powders, which were fearfully compounded from sulphur, black antimony, asafetida, and foenugreek—sometimes they endured the treatment but failures were frequent.

Cosmetics? Yes, the young ladies dolled up then as now, but their armamentarium was confined to a cake of magnesium carbonate, drop chalk and carmine; the boys used beaver oil to keep their hair shining and slick.

Instead of the tiny pink pills now largely dispensed on Saturday, senna and manna, hiera picra, rhubarb and magnesia, were quite popular with the working classes.

The Labor Unions did not function in those days. The Junior opened the store at six o'clock in summer and seven in winter; his day ended anywhere from eight to ten o'clock in the evening. But with all the time and labor required to be an old-time druggist, I always loved the business and finally graduated from the New York College of Pharmacy in 1876, of which institution only one living graduate is my senior.¹

SANTONIN AS A DAILY DOSE.

Evidently Russian manufacturers of Santonin are endeavoring to promote the use of this generally. L. Gildesgame, Managing Director for the Eastern & Russian Trading Co. Ltd., London, states that in Japan all confections, pastry products, mineral waters, tonics and many medicinal products, include

a portion of santonin as a part of a government-supported drive to eradicate human intestinal parasites. Evidently, the purpose of his visit was partly, at least, to extend the use of santonin in this country. According to his statement exports to Japan are five tons a year; and to the United States, three tons annually.

¹ Mr. Ballard died June 8; see notice under "Obituary;" this number.