

# BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH

Compiled by A. G. DuMez, Reporter on the Progress of Pharmacy.

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### AN OPPORTUNITY.\*

BY ROBERT P. FISCHELIS.

The retail drug business is changing. There is no question about that. Men who years ago entered the practice of pharmacy as apprentices to the old time English, French or German apothecaries are apt to sneer at what we call the practice of pharmacy to-day. We are told that only 10% of the work of the modern retail drug store requires a knowledge of the art and science of pharmacy. When we enter such a drug store and watch its operations we realize very quickly that the foregoing statement is only too true.

However, when we carefully analyze this situation we find that it is not, of itself, as detrimental to the progress of professional pharmacy as some calamity howlers would have us believe. The many non-pharmaceutical side lines are easily explained. The American citizen wants what he wants when he wants it. Originally the only things he wanted from a drug store were drugs, medicines and sick room supplies. One store could supply a very large community with all of these for, happily, most people are not sick during much of their lifetime. But in these days of concentration of populations with the resulting enormous apartment houses and hotels that frequently are able to accommodate the entire population of a small town and many times the number of inhabitants of some that are called towns, the problem is different. These people want to be served quickly, and in order that they may have the pharmaceutical service of the drug store when they want it, the druggist must be conveniently at hand all the time. This requires numerous stores in locations where rents are not low and other expenses are greater than the income from strictly pharmaceutical activities will warrant. Hence the expansion into related and unrelated merchandising fields.

The fact that drug stores must be kept open more hours of the day than perhaps any other retail establishment tends naturally to increase the non-pharmaceutical business. The original reason for keeping open far into the night was to

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