

PHARMACEUTICAL DISPLAY AT IOWA MEDICAL SOCIETY.

The Iowa Pharmaceutical Association held a display of U. S. P. and N. F. preparations at the meeting of the Iowa State Medical Society, in Des Moines, May 9th-11th. This display was sponsored by the Intraprofessional Relationship Committee, composed of Messrs. George Judisch, Ames, *Chairman*; John Waizenegger, Des Moines, and B. P. Bogan, Sioux City, to promote coöperation between physicians and pharmacists.

The display was set up in the Scientific Section of the exhibits, in a space donated by the State Medical Society. Many physicians stopped at the display during the three days of the meeting. A gourd of Aloes, without a label, aroused much curiosity and many physicians enjoyed seeing, for the first time, a drug, in the crude form, which they had often prescribed. This led to various discussions of the other items on display, and gave the members of the committee an opportunity to explain the merits of the U. S. P. and N. F. preparations. In addition to the gourd of Aloes there were several species of *Aloe* plant, and a species of *Artemisia*. The most attractive part of the display was a digitalis plant in bloom.



Pharmaceutical Display at Iowa Medical Society.

One of the most valuable parts of the display was a series of eleven frequently found incompatibilities. These were prepared showing the correct and incorrect method. A sign, placed near the incompatibilities, read: "INCOMPATIBILITY—Why a knowledge of Chemistry and Physics is so essential to the expert pharmacist. The value of a medicine and even the life of the patient may depend on the skill of the pharmacist. See the correct and incorrect method of compounding."

PYORRHŒA AND MOUTH-WASHES.

Dealing with the treatment of pyorrhœa, Pitts (London) refers to the use of mouth-washes and remarks that the most important ingredient in these is the water. Their main purpose is to flush out the mouth and to remove debris. Claims that this or that drug will destroy bacteria found in the mouth may be true of experiments *in vitro*, but it is a fallacy to imagine that any antiseptic can be used in the mouth of such a strength that it will reduce the bacterial flora to any appreciable degree. Experiments show that any reduction is temporary, and

quickly made up. When it is remembered that in pyorrhœa there are irregular pockets round the teeth lined with infected tissue, it will be obvious that the antiseptics used in a mouth-wash can only play a minor part in its treatment. But few patients will believe this; so, if only to inspire confidence, a mouth-wash containing some antiseptic is a useful measure. Astringent mouth-washes are recommended. Hydrogen peroxide (five vols.) is useful, as the mechanical flushing action is increased by the effervescence of the nascent oxygen.—*The Prescriber*, June 1934.