A COLLEGE OF PHARMACY PRESCRIPTION ROOM.

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Prescription work is probably the most scientific of all the work a pharmacist does in the drug store. In a sense it may be considered the keystone of the arch of pharmaceutical education since many of the other subjects are included in the curriculum to prepare the student for a proper understanding of this subject.

Because of the high character of this work both in college and in the drug store, the equipment of a prescription room in which the student receives his practice in the dispensing of prescritptions is a matter of the first importance. Since, according to my idea, the prescription room at Purdue University satisfactorily fulfills the purposes for which it was designed, a brief description of it might be of interest to the readers of the Journal.

This department occupies a corner room fourteen by eighteen and a half feet, having one east and two south windows. It is heated from an office room below by a register in the floor in order to save the space that would otherwise be occupied by a radiator. Two corner sinks, in opposite corners of the room, afford a means for washing utensils, containers, etc. Distilled water is supplied by siphons from large bottles conveniently located on top of the cases. Hot distilled water is also available, being supplied by a block-tin lined copper tank fitted with a faucet, and heated by an ordinary bunsen burner.

The furniture of the room consists of five prescription cases, one labeling desk,

Prescription Room, Purdue University School of Pharmacy, Lafayette, Ind.

and one Schwartz Sectional cabinet. The prescription cases and labeling desk were manufactured according to blueprints and specifications furnished by the Purdue School of Pharmacy. The prescription cases are of Indiana quarter-sawed oak, nine feet long by twenty-one inches wide, and have plate-glass work-tops inlaid on green felt. Below the work-top of each case are three cupboards for the larger apparatus, closed by roll doors, and a number of drawers for smaller utensils, containers, etc., while above the work-top are three sections of adjustable shelves on which are kept in regular shelf bottles the chemicals, powdered drugs, and liquid preparations of the U. S. Pharmacopœia. The labeling desk is of the same material and construction, six feet long by twenty-one inches wide and of a height convenient for use while standing. This desk has two cupboards closed by roll doors and numerous drawers in which are stored the surplus stock of labels, apparatus, and containers for use in this room.

The sectional cabinet is utilized for small and irregular containers, original bottles of alkaloids, volatile oils, etc., and the proprietaries usually kept in stock.

Each kind of work is performed at a desk especially equipped and fitted for that kind of work only. For example, suppositories are made at the suppository desk which, in addition to the necessary mortars, slabs, spatulas, etc., has a disappearing suppository machine, casseroles for melting suppository masses, rectal, infant, vaginal, and urethral molds, and in fact everything that could possibly be required in the extemporaneous preparation of suppositories. The same is true throughout the room, a specially equipped desk being used for each of the following classes of preparations: Suppositories, elastic capsules, infusions and decoctions, powders, cachets, capsules, collyria and nebula, hypodermics, solutions, mixtures, emulsions, ointments, tablet triturates, troches and pastils and pills.

Each nine-foot desk is designed for the use of two students ordinarily, or three if necessary. Thus it will be seen that fifteen students can be accommodated in this room at one time, surely as great economy of space as is practical in the drug store. In fact, conditions in the drug store have been kept in mind in fitting up this room rather than the ordinary laboratory plan for pharmaceutical or chemical work. Here, if no-where else, "Cleanliness is next to Godliness." The student is assigned to a desk for one day's work only. He finds it in good order and scrupulously clean, and he leaves it as he finds it, the apparatus being checked and inspected after each day's work. This necessitates the work of the course being done progressively instead of simultaneously, and it provides a maximum of equipment at minimum of cost.

The plan of equipping the room and carrying on the work of prescription dispensing is as nearly as possible the plan that would be followed in equipping and operating an exclusive prescription store to work fifteen clerks.

The containers used for the dispensing of the finished prescriptions are the best that can be procured. Hinged lid pill and powder boxes, partitioned boxes lined with tinfoil for suppositories, collapsible tubes as well as opaque glass jars for ointments, glass jars with perforated tops for dusting powders, are typical examples.

It has long been the belief of the writer that prescription work cannot be too

well or too elegantly done and that, in the student's practical work in this subject while in college, too much emphasis cannot be placed upon either the thoroughness of the work or the beauty and elegance of the finished product.

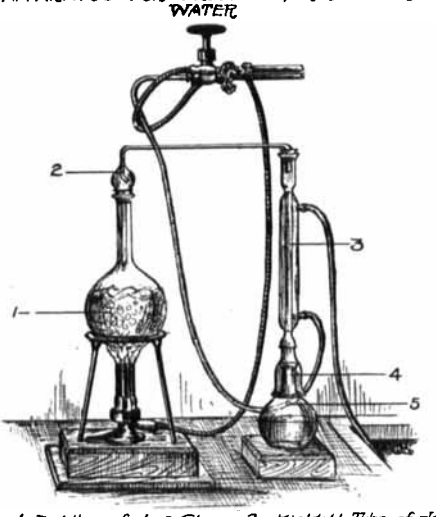
The graduates of colleges of pharmacy should never meet in any drug store better or more elegant dispensing than they have been taught and required to do in college; they should be accustomed to the use of the best materials, utensils, containers, in short the best of everything. They should be masters of the highest class of compounding and dispensing and trained in no other kind, for it is to these college-trained men that pharmacy must look for its ideals and its uplift in the years to come.

REDISTILLED WATER VERSUS STERILIZED DISTILLED WATER.*

WM. GRAY.

Pharmacists should be cautioned against using boiled distilled water as a substitute for redistilled water. Distilled water, as ordinarily handled, not only contains traces of metal and ammonia, but bacteria as well. Boiling such a specimen does not remove any bacteria that may be present, but killing them

APPARATUS FOR PREPARING REDISTILLED WATER



1-Distilling of Jena Glass. 2-Kjeldahl Tube of Jena Glass 3-Vertical Condenser 4-Hood (for protection against dust and microorganisms 5-Receiving Flask of Non-Sol Glass

produces a suspension of them, which, when administered intravenously, acts like a vaccine. Chills, temperature and other complications often result from using water of this kind. This is neither desirable nor necessary, as the difficulty is easily overcome by redistilling the water in hard glass, such as Jena or Non-Sol. The water should be *aseptically* cared for, and used within an hour

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