

profit), as they now appreciate the great opportunity it was to them to have been in the employ of such an employer.

As the brand trade-mark on some lines of manufacture inspires confidence in the goods bearing said marks, so the record of having served a satisfactory apprenticeship with proprietors of certain standing gives their ex-employees credentials that are of great benefit and value; hence the selection of a preceptor is a very momentous question for the young man entering pharmacy, and no hasty decision should be made upon this question, for the years of employment, while acquiring the degree of pharmacist, are but a small portion of the years the average clerk is connected with pharmacy.

Preceptors in pharmacy should realize the moral obligations they assume when employing clerks and should govern themselves accordingly. A full realization of those obligations will soon bring about a decided improvement in the quality of clerks; also establish the drug business upon a higher plane, with better financial rewards.

The opportunity is at hand. Will it be embraced?

Time only can give the answer; but may our generation not be compelled to be ashamed of its record, and deliberately throw away the golden opportunities that are at hand, for America has a new era awaiting for all alert, honorable, intelligent workers.

WOMEN IN PHARMACY TO-DAY.

BY R. A. KUEVER.

During the past three years European countries have witnessed the advent of women in fields hitherto controlled entirely by men. Inspired by patriotism, women offered their services in offices and factories where their help, at first a grateful addition, soon became a real necessity. With the duration of the war came multiplication of their tasks, until women's sphere included the most menial labor in mines and ammunition plants. They have borne their added responsibilities bravely and capably, sacrificing equally with the men folk in order to do their bit.

America will witness the same spectacle in the months to come—is witnessing it now in a small way. With us, however, it is different in that our women are afforded time to fit themselves for the work. The delay in placing our fighting forces in the field has enabled the majority of our men to continue their business undisturbed, or to substitute other men in their places. Women have shown an ardent desire to serve, and in many places girls are being employed to run elevators, page lobbies and perform similar tasks. But by far the greater number are serving by conserving and knitting—nor would I undervalue that service—but it must be materially increased and broadened as our man power decreases.

How can I best serve is the question confronting thousands of wide-awake American women, who are looking into the future welfare of our country. There is no field which offers greater opportunities than pharmacy. The demand for skilled pharmacists has never been as great, the salaries have never been so large,

and the number of available pharmacists never has been so small as it is at present—three very good reasons why more women should enter that field. Not only that, it is work for which women are admirably fitted. It does not require hard manual labor; it is clean, pleasant work, which any scientifically trained woman can do admirably and enjoy doing. Calls for registered pharmacists are constantly being received which cannot be filled because so many of the young men in that profession have entered some branch of our national service, and many more will be called to the colors this winter.

Our professional colleges feel the loss of the young men who have responded so promptly to their country's call, but their places are bound to be filled by women who realize in this their opportunity for service. The percentage of women in professional training is decidedly on the increase. At the State University of Iowa this year, seventeen percent of those registered in the College of Pharmacy are women. Another year it will be even greater, for women are quick to avail themselves of the double opportunity to earn their livelihood and at the same time do their bit.

WARNING AS TO CRUDE DRUGS.

Because of the discovery of as much as 25 percent of dog fennel in recent shipments of chamomile and of foreign materials in other crude drugs, the United States Department of Agriculture warns dealers and shippers to purchase only on explicit specifications. When imported, or shipped in interstate commerce, or when offered for sale in the Territories or the District of Columbia, crude drugs are adulterated within the meaning of the Food and Drugs Act if their strength or purity falls below the professed standard or quality under which they are sold. If the drug is sold under or by a name recognized in the United States Pharmacopoeia or National Formulary, it must conform with the requirements thereof as to strength, quality, and purity. If it differs therefrom, and the name recognized in the Pharmacopoeia or Formulary is retained, then the bottle, box, or other container must bear a plain statement of its own standard of strength, quality, or purity.

A WORD FROM THE TREASURER.

The A. Ph. A. fiscal year runs even with the calendar year. The annual payment for 1918 was due January 1. The bills were mailed to the members December 17, 1917. It is gratifying to state that at the present writing, January 5, the treasurer has received 725 payments for 1918. A prompt response from the other members will save the association the expense of mailing a second bill.

New Year's greetings to all from

HENRY L. WHELPLEY,
2342 Albion Place, St. Louis, Mo.