

dosage, etc., of the many drugs enumerated. One day we were charged with the buying of supplies, and in glancing over the daily news we read of sporadic cases of a disease which was assuming epidemic proportions in the surrounding country. Later in the day we received a number of prescriptions calling for a certain drug that was considered a specific in the treatment of the epidemic disease. The evening papers told of floods and devastating storms in the Far East which had destroyed crops of a number of medicinal plants. Separately these news items were interesting, but meant nothing. Coupled collectively with our knowledge of the habitat of drugs it meant that there would later on be a shortage of the specific drug prescribed for the epidemic disease because it came from the Far Eastern lands where drug crops had been injured. Anticipated shortages of drugs, based on real causes, have an influence on the current prices as soon as handlers of these drugs become aware of the conditions. Knowing this we immediately stocked up on the drug in question, and as a result were able to supply the demands when these became heavy, while others were breaking their necks to make purchases at any price.

Watching the drug market and learning the conditions which influence it are a large part of the buyer's education. Teachers in pharmacy schools should draw attention to the commercial value of the information they impart. It will not lower their dignity, and may often turn a highly theoretical course loathed by the student into something practical that is doubly appreciated.

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#### BIBLIOGRAPHIES.

The purpose of this comment is to express satisfaction at the results of the establishment of the Bibliography of Pharmaceutical Research conducted by the Reporter on the Progress of Pharmacy, Dr. H. V. Army. It is also intended to point to this work by the American Pharmaceutical Association as valuable and important to pharmacy and for pharmacists, for scientists in related lines of endeavor, and for the public. Work of this kind is conducted by organizations, by libraries, and very often conducted at an expense, but is of immense assistance to research workers and ultimately brings valuable results. The work undertaken by members of the Association, and under its guidance, has been so valuable that a brief comment does not give due credit. In the April issue mention was

made of the investigations of one of our members which laid the foundation for what is to-day known as colloidal chemistry.

Information is the beginning and the goal of research, and the researcher must have reference to the literature on work that is engaging him; bibliographies, therefore, are important sources of information. The preparation of bibliographies requires time, and represents much investigation and reading. The department established in the JOURNAL, will prove of great value. Those who presented this timely thought, and others who are contributing their services, are entitled to more than these few words of appreciation, but in seeing the fruitful results of their efforts they have a measure of satisfaction.

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