

## SHORTER HOURS AND SUNDAY REST.

FOR years this question has been the subject of debate and resolution with the A. Ph. A. and N. A. R. D., and probably with the majority of state associations, and except that here and there the pharmacists of some of the smaller communities have adopted better hours, and that a few individual pharmacists have emancipated themselves by independent action, nothing effectual has been accomplished.

The subject is referred to here, not with the object of adding anything to what has already been said upon it, but partly for the purpose of calling attention to an excellent collection of papers upon this topic printed in *N. A. R. D. Notes* of June 20, and partly to suggest that Shorter Hours and Sunday Rest would be a very appropriate subject for concerted action by all pharmaceutical bodies during the coming year—and for as many years afterward as may be necessary to accomplish this greatly needed reform.

With but few exceptions the pharmacists who have expressed themselves upon this topic have declared that drug stores everywhere may be closed, either for the whole or for the larger part of each Sunday, without detriment to the community, and without material loss to their proprietors, and that such small financial loss as may occur is more than compensated by the increased physical well being and mental reinforcement of the proprietor and his assistants.

The men who thus speak are not pharmaceutical derelicts, but men who have been successful in business to an eminent degree, and who speak out of the fullness of experience, and there are no others better able to speak with authority.

Practically all of them are emphatic in asserting that the need of supplying medical articles does not require stores to be open all day on Sunday, and they are equally emphatic in asserting that where such a practice obtains mercenary motives are alone responsible.

In fact the evidence in favor of complete or partial Sunday closing is so voluminous, so pointed and so clear, that no court or jury to which it was submitted would fail to find in favor of it.

Of the plans suggested for Sunday closing two seem to have been most successful where tried:

To close all but one or two stores in a town or neighborhood, the closed stores having in their windows the names of the ones open on that day, the stores to remain open being selected in regular rotation.

To close all of the stores every Sunday, except for two or three hours in the morning and evening.

Both of these plans require concert of action for their successful operation, but some assert that the pharmacist who is brave enough to do so can close his own store either for the whole or part of the day without regard to what others in the same community or neighborhood may do, and instance their own experience as evidence that this independent action may be taken without loss, or that the loss will be more than made up by increased trade on week days.

That the cruelly long hours of the pharmacist are responsible for many other pharmaceutical evils there is not the slightest particle of doubt, and it is morally certain that longer and more frequent periods of rest would result in such a broadening of the pharmacist's outlook upon life, and would have such a clarifying

effect upon his understanding as would enable him to better comprehend other proposed reforms and induce him to contribute his efforts for their accomplishment.

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### THE CERTIFICATION OF PHARMACIES.

CLASSIFICATION for the purpose of indicating superiority or excellence has been adopted in a good many callings.

In the eternal struggle for existence it has often come to pass that "caveat emptor" has assumed a meaning far beyond that originally intended by the law. It is often a case of "the buyer had better look out or he is sure to get stung."

While a good many business men and a still greater number of those engaged in professional pursuits have long ago recognized the fact that the buyer is entitled to a great deal of consideration, and that the very fact of his patronage is an expression of confidence which should be guarded as a precious jewel, there will always be men who are ready to sacrifice honor, and even life, for the sake of paltry gain. And while eventually such tactics are bound to result in failure, still the innocent purchaser and the honest seller are of necessity the sufferers under such conditions.

Some things are so familiar to the public at large that a little reasonable care in their selection will enable the purchaser to "beware;" others are of such a character that nothing short of special training will enable one to separate the good from the bad, and it is especially in goods which are of the utmost importance for the maintenance of health and the combating of disease that the latter applies.

Recognizing these conditions the makers of delicate instruments have long ago resorted to special methods of testing, and instruments so tested are "certified," thus giving the purchaser an additional assurance of accuracy. The modern business doctor, the accountant, appeals to his prospective patrons by being "certified." Infant mortality, the cause of which went unrecognized for an almost criminally long time, has been greatly reduced by the knowledge that the infant's staff of life must be pure, and today milk inspection and the "certification" of dairies complying with certain requirements laid down by the milk commission are cutting down death and disease among infants in perceptible amount.

What holds good in other lines of business and in other professions surely may successfully be applied to one of the most important callings of modern civilized life, pharmacy. Even in Galen's time there were complaints of the substituting and irresponsible pharmacist, and the trend of time has not been able to completely eliminate that blot on the pharmaceutical profession, the unreliable druggist. There seems to be no adequate reason then why the pharmacist who carefully and conscientiously follows his professional calling, who is specially equipped, both educationally and with laboratory facilities, should not be distinguished from his less well prepared or less willing brother by having his store certified.

As to the requirements which a store must meet in order to become certified, careful thought should be given to this subject and rules must be laid down which, while not prohibitive, will make reasonably sure of the fitness both of the pharmacist and his pharmacy before certification is granted.

No pharmacy should be admitted to certification which is not owned and act-