

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

J. H. BEAL.



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-

ually managed by a duly registered pharmacist. A certain amount of equipment, a fair minimum of paraphernalia, should be found in the store, and this should include also a reasonable reference library. Counter-prescribing should be an absolute disqualifying agent, as well as any attempt at substitution or sophistication in the compounding of physicians' prescriptions. And lastly I would consider any pharmacy unfit for certification which sells liquors in any shape or form for beverage purposes.

The officers charged with the appointing of the committees which are to grant these certificates have a duty to perform which must not be underestimated. The power vested in such a committee, for good or for evil, is far reaching, and only such men should receive an appointment thereon who have no private enterprises to foster; nor should men be appointed whose only claim to recognition is the political power which they hold in their local, state or national association. They should be men who, without fear and without favor, will grant a certification to their bitterest enemy, should he be worthy, and will refuse such certification to their best friend, should he fail to meet the necessary requirements.

There are plenty of men in pharmacy who are fully able to perform this duty, who will give their time and labor without remuneration, for the benefit of humanity and of their calling. Again there are men who will make every effort to receive an appointment on this committee whose own stores could not conscientiously be certified.

A serious duty is thus imposed on the Chairman of the Medical Society of the County of New York and on the Chairman of the New York Branch A. Ph. A. The entire nation will be watching the makeup and the work of this committee. It is the first and greatest opportunity which pharmacy has to prove its fitness to be enrolled as a true profession. Will we utilize this opportunity, or will we again permit the pharmaceutical politicians to barter away our birthright?

J. DINER.



“DRUGGISTS ARE MEN OF NO GREAT LEARNING.”

IN the recent decision in the noted “broken senna” case in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, Judge Hand said, among other things: “The Pharmacopoeia is a book put in the hands of druggists all over the country, *men of no great learning*, for practical use,” or, putting the statement in affirmative form, that pharmacists as a class are men of very little learning.

Such a statement from a learned Judge of a Federal Court should not be allowed to pass by unanswered.

In our opinion the pharmacists of the United States who take an interest in pharmacy as a profession, and who are members of the American Pharmaceutical Association, *are men of very considerable learning*, and therefore do not deserve this criticism of the Federal Judge. It has often been said, and said truly, that the American Pharmaceutical Association in its annual conventions, in the monthly meetings of the Branches, and in its publications, as the Journal, Proceedings, Committee Reports, National Formulary, etc., provides a real post-graduate course of pharmacy. In order to be a graduate of a college of pharmacy, higher