

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

education is demanded, and in order to pass the State Board examination in most of the states it is practically necessary to be a college graduate.

The writer well remembers that not many years ago the youth in a law office would go to an evening law school, where no "regent's counts" were required, take the state board examination and was then admitted to the bar. And this was the manner in which a great many lawyers who are now judges obtained their education, while thousands of practicing lawyers never saw the inside of a law school of any kind.

We are unable to agree with the learned judge that pharmacists as a class are men of no great learning, and believe that his dictum does a great injustice to a class of men who are equally as well educated as those who practice law, though perhaps not so much given to the parading of their learning in public places.

OTTO RAUBENHEIMER.

SIMPLER PHRASEOLOGY.

It is with rejoicing that one notes the tendency toward simpler language and phraseology in recent scientific literature. It is to be regretted that some of the texts and treatises on medical and surgical subjects show a less noticeable degree of improvement than do scientific periodicals and research publications. Probably there was a time when the use of cumbersome and sonorous phrases lent a sort of dignity to medical literature, particularly in the estimation of the general public. Recently, however, many writers are acting on the theory that no need exists for borrowing dignity from so doubtful a source, and that the simpler the language, the more accurately and readily it will convey the intended meaning. Some medical authors find occasions when "cause" expresses their meaning as well as "etiological factor," and when it is as easy to have the patient "lie down" as to make him "assume a recumbent posture." We welcome the time when any work which defines a fracture as "a traumatic or pathological solution of the continuity of osseous structure," or abounds in verbiage equally atrocious, will be preserved and read only as a curiosity.—*Journal A. M. A.*