

admittance among the recognized professions? Will the hospital pharmacist be content to remain the handmaiden of medicine or has he the longing for higher things, the desire for greater achievements which only exact science can make possible? Education begins with life; it is the purpose of life; the means towards its destiny. Here in America it is our noble destiny to help rather than harm, to struggle for rather than against mankind and to seek our own success in the success of all.

Will this spirit be manifested in the hospital pharmacists of America and lead them forward on a glorious path of progress lighted by the beneficent rays of science

"Whose power is such that whom she lifts from earth,  
She makes familiar with a heaven unseen,  
And shows him glories yet to be revealed."

Where does the hospital pharmacist stand?

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### SOME PRIVATE AND QUASI-PUBLIC HOSPITALS AND THE DRUG STORES.\*

BY JOSEPH JACOBS.

It is well, sometimes, to recur to principles and fundamentals to see if current practices are in ways of error, with the hope of calling for the remedies, if wrongs appear, and leading practice back into proper channels, if found astray.

The fifth enumerated article of the Constitution of our Association calls upon us to "Suppress empyricism, and to restrict the dispensing and sale of medicines to regularly educated Druggists and Apothecaries."

It is often said—and in derogation of modern Pharmacy—that, from New York City to the humblest hamlet of our country, the "Blue Light Drug Store" is a thing of the past; that our cities and towns are afflicted with pharmacies that are no more than department stores, where you may purchase any article of domestic adaptation or personal comfort and adornment. These commentators say "you find the tall prescription desk, it is true, but its pill-tile where pills are rolled out, divided with the spatula, rounded with fingers and thumb, dusted, and delivered in little round paste-board pill boxes"—is now an antique. The man with the pestle, say our critics, "no longer smells of socrotine aloes or valerianate of ammonia." The odor of rubber goods, toilet soaps and the ice cream corner pervade his fashionable raiment, and he wraps and delivers toys, toilet articles, hair nets and dolls as deftly as the old apothecary compounded and presented prescriptions. Their parenthesis thought is that the modern druggist is often flagrantly profiteer and revels in great riches. But, in the light of what follows, what do we see? Is his name blazoned as director of banks or trust companies; are central sky-scrapers on his tax returns? Rather do we look for such magnates among the hardware dealers, the coal merchants or the opticians of his vicinity. The druggist is, meanwhile, renter of the location sheltering his so-called department store.

There are many causes for this condition to be seen clearly on most casual reflection. Modern labor-saving devices are multiplied and many of them commandeered by Pharmacy; processes of compounding have been simplified and improved; and store fixtures and arrangements are made more convenient for both

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\* Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing, A. Ph. A., Asheville meeting, 1923.

customer and proprietor. These are time-savers for the man with the mortar; and, as he is in a position of contact with the public, it may be natural that he should employ this available time in supplying expressed wants besides those strictly medicinal.

Is it even to be wondered at that, coming as he does in such friendly association with many persons in surroundings and atmosphere suggesting remedies, he should hear recitals of sufferings and often be applied to for minor kinds of medical help, and, however inadvisably, occasionally imitate Dr. Hornbrook, and "try his skill?" It was often said of him, before the 18th amendment, especially, as of Burns' renowned Doctor:

"Calces o' fossils, earths and trees,  
True sal-marinum o' the seas,  
The Farina of beans and peas,  
He has't in plenty;  
Aqua-fortis, what you please,  
He can content ye."

But, among the many causes thus affecting the drug store, one of the chief arises from the existence of numberless Private and quasi-Public Hospitals, and the way they are conducted as to medicines. They are many and are fast increasing in numbers in all cities and towns. As soon as a coterie of doctors can form a lison of interests and collect a syndicate capital sufficient for building, up goes the sanitarium.

Their patients for pay (income tax-payers preferred) can command every art developed by the modern science of healing from modified phlebotomy to telepathic "Coueism."

Time was, we elderly members can recollect, when the trained nurse was not in the land. Mother, sister, "Aunt Mary" or a good neighbor "Ministering Angel" sat by the bedside of suffering and offered the potions or pills of the good old family doctor, applied his poultices, or gave home-brewed teas of healing herbs, secured by the pharmacist from nearby glens. It was then considered a sort of reflection that the dear one should languish on the bed of a hospital.

In those days showers of prescriptions fell upon the druggist's desk daily, and account books were generously filled with figures and legends showing good profit for his goods, skill and labors. And then, the careful, anxious physician felt the satisfaction of knowing that the ofttime dangerous drugs he was compelled, after painstaking diagnosis, to prescribe would not be administered in over proportion, be made from unofficinal ingredients, or intermixed, improperly, by the mistakes of ignorance. His Latinized orders were to be carefully obeyed by a specially educated, skilled, conscientious, and amply paid pharmacist, with whom he was in close personal touch.

No reflection here is intended on our faithful and efficient trained nurses who in so many sanitariums relieve the pangs and sufferings of afflicted men and women, and it is in our day no animadversion on the sensibility of kindred that their sick ones have hospital care.

But do not these hospitals in many instances, if not by universal practice, by using medicines that have not had the specific attention of the special pharma-

cist, assume the risk of the improper administration of drugs? Is it not true that the physicians in charge of these institutions too often rely upon nurses, who are mere probationists, not graduates and registered pharmacists, to concoct and compound remedies? And do they not often use medicines that have been bought by bale or barrel or packing box at very special prices, with large discounts on these, from the manufacturers, thus sold in the hope of advertising their "brands" before internes and hospital "walkers." How many of these doses ought to be modified or altered to suit particular cases by the skilled prescriptionist, might well become a question.

When we consider the great number of our sanitariums and private hospitals with their increasing thousands of patients and a vast army of their physicians and internes, who do not send their prescriptions to the pharmacist's desk, can it be wondered at that the graduate pharmacists, after years of expensive college training and fulfilling the costly and strict requirements of the law, employ their spare time in adding to depleted income by dealing in department store ware?

It may be that by this system of ignoring the prescriptionist these hospitals are enabled to declare larger dividends on their investments, but it may well be questioned whether the safety and welfare or the economy of the patient may not be jeopardized and, if in the future, we raise up a generation of inefficient and impecunious pharmacists, the fault may largely lie at the doors of the hospital doctors. They seem to be abandoning the "Letheran herb of the good Apothecary." Is it not pertinent therefore to say: "*Omnia contra spoliatorum praesumuntur.*"

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### TEACHING PHARMACEUTICAL LAW.\*

BY HOWARD KIRK.<sup>1</sup>

In teaching pharmaceutical law to my class of some three hundred students, I soon realized that they had little time for abstract theory, and most of my carefully prepared notes went into the discard. I made every effort to hold the lectures down to plain advice on the things the class needed to know, and the students showed their appreciation of the endeavor to give them this real help.

I held before the class the picture of the young druggist, starting in on his life work, and tried to make them see the legal problems that that young man would have to face. Naturally, I started him off with his entrance into the study of his profession; this led to a short description of the State Pharmaceutical Board, and a statement of the requirements for admission of students. I then had the young man graduate and register as a full-fledged pharmacist, and having done so he was ready for the following steps in business which required a certain knowledge of the law:

(a) *Securing capital.* Various methods of securing loans were discussed. The advantages and disadvantages of a partnership were gone over. Examination papers showed that practically every student remembered my warning that—"You choose a partner as you choose a wife." The joint stock and corporate form of business organization were briefly described.

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\* Section on Commercial Interests, A. Ph. A., Asheville meeting, 1923.

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