

THE HOSPITAL PHARMACIST AND HIS IMPORTANCE.*

BY EDWARD SWALLOW.

The hospital pharmacist should insist upon having the proper apparatus to work with so he can do his duty by the patient, doctor and the hospital in the best scientific manner possible.

He should make it his business to examine all drugs and chemicals used by him, so he is certain of their purity. It is not enough for him to merely compound and prepare, he must know that the patient is getting, as far as the proper exercise of his art goes, the medication of the U. S. P. standards. All solutions and other preparations which lose their activity should have a date of manufacture upon each container, indicating also the time after which they should not be used.

It is absolutely necessary that the pharmacy be equipped with modern sterilizing apparatus to allow of solutions, etc., being prepared as required. Improvements of every kind are in order in an important place like the hospital pharmacy.

Up to the last few years the position of hospital pharmacist, generally speaking, has not been an enviable one, and there is still opportunity for betterment. In many hospitals he is classed with the ordinary help, and therefore does not command the respect he is entitled to by reason of his professional training. He is not exactly looked down upon but his standing as a professional man is ignored, and this attitude has the tendency to make his position of less importance than it really is. He owes it to himself to see that this is changed. Also, he should draw the attention of his State organization to any violation of the Pharmacy laws by hospitals employing unregistered help for the compounding and dispensing of medicines.

He should insist upon being classed with other professional men in the hospital, or see that the standard is raised. Individual effort will count a whole lot, and, as hospital men will in the future represent the strictly professional part of our calling, it is up to them to add all the dignity to their work they can.

The hospital pharmacist should apply himself to original research; not how little education is essential but how much education he can gain should be his purpose. He should be well informed in bacteriology, physiology, and other subjects essential in clinical laboratory work.

Every hospital pharmacist represents his whole profession in the eyes of those around him; the more important he makes his position the more dignity and honor is added to his calling, so the ethics of the profession cannot be too carefully lived up to.

Hospital pharmacists should meet frequently, work together and stick together as members of the American Pharmaceutical Association, which is behind them in all worthy endeavors for the honor and advancement of the profession of pharmacy.

NEW YORK ARBITRATION EDUCATIONAL WEEK.

The week of May 7 to 12 will be "Arbitration Educational Week." In that seven-day period commercial associations and trade

organizations in New York City and State will unite in an intensive effort to make known to all citizens the benefits to be derived by making use of arbitration in the settlement of business differences and disputes.

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