

he had the courage to deny himself the profits accruing from transactions which would lower the dignity of his practice. Has he kept faith in maintaining a professional attitude in his work? Has he taken cognizance of his duty to those who will follow him in the manner in which those who preceded him prepared the way?

If he has faithfully lived up to these obligations and has not permitted his professional standing to be submerged in a self-created merchandising maelstrom, in all probability he finds himself so substantially situated socially, professionally and financially as to warrant, so far as he is concerned, the complaisant conclusion that "there isn't a darn thing the matter with pharmacy."

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### HOSPITAL PHARMACY AND PHARMACISTS.

THE EDITOR, JOURNAL A. PH. A.:

According to a recent statement by Homer F. Sanger, of the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals of the American Medical Association, there are 6580 hospitals in the United States of which number there are 136 in Chicago with 49 hospital pharmacists. A simple calculation gives 87 hospitals in Chicago which have no properly trained and registered pharmacists preparing and compounding the medicines required by the physicians in treating their patients.

In the Greater City of New York we have 146 hospitals (25 public hospitals and 121 semi-public institutions) also 70 private hospitals making altogether 216 hospitals for the entire city. If the same ratio of properly trained pharmacists to the hospitals obtains in New York City we have about 60 per cent. of our hospitals without registered men being in charge of the pharmacies in these institutions. While an examination into the true conditions in New York City would show a much better state of affairs than this it is a fact that there are too many hospitals and dispensaries where untrained persons are allowed to prepare and dispense medicines. If it be true that over 50 per cent. of these institutions which owe their existence to the national desire of the people to take care of its most important asset, its health, are compounding and dispensing their medicines with unqualified help, two things suggest themselves. First, that the pharmacy laws in each state forbid anyone but legally qualified persons to practise pharmacy independent of the requirements of the Harrison Act. Secondly, if untrained persons may be allowed to prepare medicines in quantities and dispense same in 50 per cent. of the American hospitals and dispensaries why cannot the same privilege be extended to the retail drug stores where in the great majority of cases the purely professional part is of minor importance in the day's business?

It is true that most of the larger hospitals fully meet the requirements as to the pharmacy department and some of the most able pharmacists in the country are employed in these institutions, enjoying the respect and confidence of the medical men attached to these places. The patients who are treated in these hospitals get the full benefit of medical science as the medicines used are prepared by trained competent pharmacists in a scientific manner which cannot be the case where this work is in the hands of persons without the necessary knowledge and experience, and it follows as any right thinking man must concede, that where this important work is done by the latter slipshod and unscientific manner the patient neither gets the full benefit of the physician's learning and medical knowledge but the whole business where medicines are concerned is unsatisfactory and

affords golden opportunities for making serious mistakes. The present condition of affairs constitutes a menace to a large number of the sick in this country and it would seem that a common-sense regard for their interests indicates clearly that where a hospital or dispensary is not in the position to employ a trained pharmacist, this important part of medicine should be placed in the hands of a local retail pharmacist who could detail one of his registered men at such times in the day to cover the work properly, in this way the prescribing doctors could be sure of their patients getting the best results from their treatments and the profession of pharmacy be placed on a better basis in every hospital and dispensary where medicine is compounded and dispensed.

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18 CORTLANDT ST.,  
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NOTES ON PHARMACY OF THE PAST CENTURIES IN SWEDEN—  
ESPECIALLY THAT OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.\*

BY B. E. HÖCKERT.

The first real drug store in Sweden was opened in Stockholm in 1592 and was licensed by King Johan the Third. It is still in existence. Before that time, drugs and spices were sold in grocery stores, by priests and others who had some knowledge of medicine and drugs. Some of the noblemen employed French or German pharmacists, who kept drugs for them, their families and retainers. During the next hundred years many drug stores were opened in Stockholm and other cities. They generally received their licenses from the local authorities until in the year 1688, King Charles the 11th designated the issuance of licenses a royal privilege. At this time he also prescribed that the Royal Collegium Medicum should examine and issue licenses to those qualified who desired to practice pharmacy or conduct a drug store, here called apothecaries. At this time a law was issued against quackery and illegal sale of drugs. The more important parts of this law are still in force.

Licenses for new drug stores were very rarely issued, and only after the people many times had petitioned for a new drug store. The present law has about the same rules as that of several centuries ago. Stores were sold, but the new owner must have passed his examinations and obtained a royal license. Some change was made in this respect in 1875, and a Royal Committee is now working on a new law.

When more than one drug store was licensed in one place, they were given names generally of animals,—thus, for example, during the time I worked in Stockholm, the drug stores of that city were: The Lion, The Crown, The Engel, The Blackmoore, The Owl, The North Star, The Monkey, The Swan, The White Bear, The Stag, The Monoceros, The Phenix, The Griffon, The Elephant and The Vase. Every drug store thus named had a picture sign, some of the old ones still being in use, but most of them have found their place in some museum, and new picture signs have taken their places. In the beginning of the 18th century, the Royal Medical Collegium started to inspect the drug stores and to test their chemicals

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\* Read before Section on Historical Pharmacy, A. Ph. A., Cleveland meeting, 1922.