

pharmacy to degenerate into a mere business of vending, and that ultimately destined to be gobbled up by promoters.

Fourteen years ago (JOUR. A. PH. A., 3, 1914, 1542) I suggested that the prescription pharmacists of America get together in an organization which I dubbed the "American Institute of Prescriptionists." This month (*American Druggist*, Aug. 1928) I have published a second paper on the "American Institute of Prescriptionists." In the fourteen years the pharmaceutical situation has suffered a radical change. In 1914 such an "Institute" seemed advisable to promote the interests of the high grade prescription pharmacists of this country. Now such an "Institute" seems *essential to save the profession of pharmacy.*

The place to save the profession of pharmacy is in the retail pharmacy itself. The manufacturer may produce, the jobber may distribute, the editor may write, the teacher may preach, but in the ultimate analysis it is the retail pharmacist who directly serves the public. If he serves the hungry with soups and sandwiches he may be performing a service but he is not following the profession of pharmacy. If he furnishes beauty aids to the near-beautiful he may be performing a service but he is not following the profession of pharmacy. If he acts as a machine shooting forth packaged goods of other men's manufacture, each time a dime or a quarter is dropped into the slot, he may be performing a service but he is not following the profession of pharmacy.

It is the prescription pharmacist alone who can save the profession of pharmacy and he can only do it by means of an organization conducted entirely by prescription pharmacists. It is a task that cannot be done by manufacturers, by jobbers, by drug journalists or even by loquacious college professors. It is a job for the pharmacists who love their prescription work more than any other part of their business.

Of course the "American Institute of Prescriptionists" (first suggested in 1914 and brought out and dusted off this month) is merely the germ of the idea of what the organization of prescription pharmacists should really be. There are lots of flaws to be found in the original plan, but it is something to start on and it seems to some of us *that now is the time to start.*

Let us see whether a start cannot be made this week in Portland. A college professor has made the preliminary suggestions and is willing to talk things over with a group of prescription pharmacists. But the organization itself must be run by prescription pharmacists, themselves, unencumbered by entangling alliances.

Stardust.—Verses of all sorts. By ROBERT RAYMOND LAMPA. Boards; 5½ by 8¼ inches; 51 pages; \$1.25. New York: Swenarton, Sallary & Collins, Inc., 1929.

Many of the readers of the JOURNAL will remember the author and poet who is responsible for "Stardust" in business and fraternal associations, and in social gatherings; some will be reminded that on occasions he extended fraternal greetings in meter and rhyme and spoke memories' thoughts in measured lines,

even though he warns that "critics in search of perfect rhyme will fail to find it here."—*Foreword* of "Stardust."

The Veteran of N. Y. V. D. A. has given poetic treatment to thirty or more subjects in which he has sung of country, section, faith, music, fraters, friends and flowers; he has dreamed and reminisced; smiled and greeted in welcomes; cheered joys and successes, and lamented losses and sorrows.
