

## "HEALTH AND BEAUTY TALKS."

For several months past many newspapers have been carrying on the "Woman's Page" what, to the uninitiated, appears to be a department devoted to answering queries regarding health. The "department" is entitled "Health and Beauty Talks," or "Health and Beauty Helps," or "Aids," or "Secrets"—the last word of the title varying with the copy. Under the title is the legend, "By Mrs. Mae Martyn." The subject matter consists of information(?) on questions of health, given in the "answers to correspondents" form; the first and last "answer" usually makes reference to none but simple home remedies or pharmacopœial preparations. For instance:

"Q. 1. A good foot wash is made of a pint of water, to which is added a tablespoonful of salt and a pinch of alum and a few drops of arnica."

Every other "answer," however, contains a "joker" in the form of nostrum which is referred to in such a way as to lead the unsuspecting reader to imagine that it is but an ordinary official drug. Thus, in the advertisement before us, there are nine replies. Here is a sample:

"Ethel J.: (1) It made me happy to read your letter. I am glad you think so well of my recipes that you cut them out and pass them along to your friends. None should have difficulty in getting from her druggist any ingredient I name, for I never advise use of anything that is not sold in first-class drug stores everywhere. (2) The only objection I know to the use of liquid complexion beautifiers is their high cost when purchased in a ready manufactured state. You can make at home a fine 'liquid powder' that softens and whitens the skin by putting two teaspoonfuls of glycerin and four ounces of spurmax in one-half pint of boiling water; let stand until cold. Apply with the palm of the hand and rub until dry. I prefer this spurmax wash to any face powder I can buy."

The "joker" in this answer," of course, is spurmax. In the other "replies," all worded in the same deceptive way, the reader is urged to get—

*Crystos*—"For tired and inflamed eyes."

*Almozoin*—"For blackheads, . . . freckles and tan."

*Canthrox*—"For shampooing purposes."

*Quinola*—"To remove dandruff, stop falling hair, relieve itching . . . and promote the growth of hair."

*Parnotis*—"A flesh reducer that . . . should reduce your weight ten pounds in a few weeks."

*Kardene*—"A splendid blood tonic and liver invigorator . . . for pimples, yellow blotches, sallow complexion, scrofula and all eruptions of the skin."

*Luxor*—"A very dear friend of mine cured a most obstinate case of eczema with this remedy."

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 RECIPROCAL INTERSTATE REGISTRATION.
 

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Requiring the practitioner of pharmacy to be a graduate from a school of pharmacy, in addition to passing a state board, is the hitch or stumbling block that makes general interstate registration practically impossible. In those states where this is required by law, the non-graduate cannot possibly register, no matter

how competent or efficient he may be. The writer is of the opinion that our higher courts would not sustain such a position. A druggist is one who buys and sells drugs. When he becomes skilled in compounding and the preparation of drugs and versed in their identification he is an apothecary or pharmacist. To withhold license from such an one because he obtained his knowledge outside of college walls, seems to me not to be tenable.

At the Denver meeting one of our foremost teachers of pharmacy—one who has spent his whole life in the lecture room and laboratory—clearly and explicitly expressed himself that in his opinion no board has a right to question the source of a candidate's knowledge. Such a position taken by one who could well take the opposite view, should have some weight with those grappling with the problem of interstate registration. Would that our vocation were wholly professional; then could we exact higher professional training.

This is, however, not the case; the business of the pharmacist is more one of a mercantile character; that is we are more druggist than apothecary or pharmacist. The logical and sensible view to take of the situation is that of the Professor. When we do this, justice will be done to the applicant for registration, and reciprocal registration will be readily brought about. A person being licensed in one state, should have the right to cross the line into another state and register without again having to pass an examination. It seems foolish to think that one competent to compound and dispense drugs in one place, is not competent to practice just across the line in another state. An injustice is being done to the pharmacist and the public gains nothing thereby. Where improvement can be made is with the boards. It is evident that the business of examining boards is to pass on all applicants alike, no matter where from, and that special recognition of college graduates should not be their business. Let us expend our energies in harmonizing examinations and bring about a more uniform standard, on a *common sense basis*. Persons equipped with good college and laboratory training will take care of themselves. They don't need any special consideration, moreover the non-recognition of diplomas will at once remove all danger of recognizing weak and inferior schools. When the several boards will stand on such a platform, the establishment of a national examining board will be feasible, and the registered pharmacist will receive his just dues and proper consideration. After all is said, it depends almost wholly on the individual, be he a graduate pharmacist, or a self-made pharmacist, whether he succeeds in business or not. Confidence of the people gauges his success, and gives him his proper professional and commercial standing.

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#### THE NEED OF FEDERAL LEGISLATION IN PHARMACY.

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One who knows enough to fill a prescription on the north bank of the Columbia River should know enough to fill the same prescription on the south bank of the same river even though it is in another state. A man who is qualified to practice