

LEECHES ON INDUSTRY.*

BY ROLAND T. LAKEY.¹

That the retail druggist is subjected to many abuses is evident. Some are of his own making and others are beyond his control. One of the most pernicious of the latter is the improper use of capital in taking advantage of the other fellow's enterprise in the development of original products, the result of his employment of research talent in a creative and constructive way.

As instruments of distribution we are compelled to do business with both the originator and the imitator. The latter serves no useful purpose, either socially or economically. An inventory of the substitutes and imitations on our shelves reveals to what extent our working capital is dissipated so that this form of chiseling may be carried on with no advantage to the medical profession or our patrons. The parasitic habits of these leeches on industry sap the life's blood of the individual pharmacy by removing from active use a large portion of the available capital with which the business is carried on. It is a wasteful system which leaves residual inventories of non-liquefiable stocks to accumulate from year to year.

Retail pharmacists and creative manufacturers will welcome any measure which will provide for the protection of their rights of priority. How this can be accomplished presents a problem that this association should have the courage to face.

In the manufacture of biological products such as serums and vaccines through the National Institute of Health, a governmental agency, a very satisfactory control has been established. No one can engage in the manufacture of these commodities without first getting the approval of equipment, personnel, purpose and product. The business is conducted subject to inspection and supervision.

There appears to be no logical reason why other types of medicinal products should be exempted from similar regulatory control.

EDUCATIONAL VALUE OF STUDENT DRUG GARDENS.*

BY VICTOR LEWITUS.¹

For a number of years, interested students have asked the coöperation of the writer in helping them to establish a drug garden. Since the College of Pharmacy does not have a conservatory of its own, these individuals saw fit to cultivate a number of plants, of their own volition, in their own gardens or backyards, or on some plot borrowed for the purpose from a coöperative neighbor.

Furnished with the materials and suggestions for culturing a limited number of medicinal plants, official and non-official, the students for the most part had good success in raising the plants to maturity.

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