

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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The list below is merely suggestive of those plants easy to cultivate in most regions of the temperate zone, with a few exceptions such as Aloes. It is reduced to a bare minimum:

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|------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| Corn | Peppermint | Castor Bean | Lycopodium |
| Oats | Spearmint | Calendula | Flax |
| Larkspur | Digitalis | Aloes | Lobelia |
| Foenugreek | Stramonium | Phytolacca | Triticum |

The educational value obtained from carrying out such a project for students so interested is as follows:

1. It gives him an insight into the requirements for proper drug production.
2. It acquaints him with the climatic and soil requirements for culturing certain drug plants.
3. It gives him an insight into some of the problems involved in drug cultivation such as the effects of plant and animal parasites, moisture requirements, frost sensitiveness, etc.
4. It furnishes him, in a rough way, with data regarding the proper time of collection, as well as in the care of storing the products.
5. It stimulates him to desire more information regarding the plants under his care such as history, properties, constituents, large-scale commercial handling, etc.
6. It supplies him with a limited amount of experience in the art of drug production.
7. It enables him to better understand the problems involved in the production of other drugs not cultivated by him.
8. It prepares him better in his later studies of Botanical, Pharmacognostical, Materia Medica and Toxicology courses which he will be more eager to learn.

THE ACCOUNTING RECORDS NECESSARY IN AN INDIVIDUALLY OWNED DRUG STORE.*

BY PAUL C. OLSEN.¹

In a paper which I had the opportunity to present to this Section last year, it was stated that one of the most common causes of the unprofitableness of drug stores is a failure to keep adequate accounting records. I am as firmly of the opinion now as I was then that fully three-quarters of the drug stores in this country have no accounting records which are worthy of the name or which are of the slightest value in guiding the operations of the store. This common failure to maintain in drug stores adequate accounting records results, in large part, because the element of compulsion does not exist with regard to them. They are just like periodic physical examinations and visiting the dentist twice a year. We all agree that they are necessary and desirable, but the tendency is for most of us to put them off indefinitely.

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