

behind the counter for years there is a real charm in pharmacy that only he knows, may it not be that what we need is to include in the definition of pharmacy something besides that which we have heretofore always included? Can we not fill the older now empty or nearly empty spaces with something besides commercial side lines? To find this out is a fifth duty of our schools of pharmacy. They should systematically study the problem and we should all help them solve it.

It can be shown with reasonable certainty that pharmacy and medicine are essentially complementary professions and that in the large their business is to solve the problems of health and disease. Anything included under these problems may, therefore, belong legitimately to pharmacy or medicine. Why we should only sell tablets and make tinctures and leave all the rest to medicine is not at all clear. The physician needs our aid along far more important lines and so does the public. Is there any logical reason, then, why we should continue as we do?

Medicine concerns itself chiefly with physical diagnosis and treatment of disease. Prophylaxis is also becoming more and more of its concern. I would like to define pharmacy as the science and art concerning itself with all of the remaining aspects of the two problems previously mentioned. This would give us professional responsibility which we need so badly, and yet not take us too far afield from pharmacy as we now know it. Particularly in things chemical are we fitted for this larger work. Our heritage is chemistry. Much that to-day is important in chemistry was brought to light in the old apothecary shop. We should undertake all of the chemical and even bacteriological work now included under medical laboratory diagnosis. Already we see the signs of the medical laboratory coming to do this work for each community. The pharmacist should anticipate this work because it really belongs to him to do. The municipal and sanitary laboratory as far as health problems are concerned should be in his hands. To the mortar and pestle should be added the test tube and Petri dish. With this combination we may reasonably hold our own—professionally do our bit and do it well. Without anything but prescriptions and patent medicines to sell to the public we cannot hope to survive. We shall drift ever farther into pure commercialism and with it will disappear every vestige of pharmacy as a distinct calling.

ARSENIC INSECTICIDE INDUSTRY PLACED UNDER THE LICENSE SYSTEM.

The Food Administration has issued the following:

With the idea of further conserving the Nation's food supply by protecting it from insect ravages, President Wilson, in a proclamation dated November 15, has placed the arsenic industry of the United States under direction of the Food Administration. The President's action comes in answer to a threatened shortage in the supply of arsenical insecticides, which are the farmer's chief protection for his crops against the onslaught of "biting insects."

All those engaged in the business of importing, storing or distributing insecticides containing arsenic are required to secure a license.
