

On the back of the carton of a recently analyzed preparation there is a statement by the manufacturers to physicians and the general public which sets forth the reasons why the preparation is efficient, and adds—"but knowing the proper prejudice of many against using any medicine prepared from concealed formulas, and to protect the public from many nostrums and worthless preparations with which the market is flooded, we have concluded—on the request of a number of physicians—to indicate on each bottle of what the medicines are composed."

This Company recognized the changing psychology of the public mind. They believe publicity good business. They have accepted and made use of the new attitude. This is common sense. There are still those who will buy to their own undoing, but the demand that all remedies possess merit is becoming more and more insistent. The day of general acceptance of the flaring label, the Almanac and the fraudulent testimonial is past. The more intelligent are on guard. This points to an educated public which, in time, will refuse to buy the secret preparation.

The example given is positive evidence that secrecy is no longer desirable.

I do not doubt that the publication of ingredients or formulas will awaken intelligent discrimination; it will lead to a transfer of approval from remedies now popular to others. This will mean loss to the manufacturer, and to the retailer who is stocked with old medicines. But the financial loss will be temporary, and is unimportant in comparison with the benefit which will result to the public. The honest manufacturer and those handling his products would have nothing to fear, for they, too, would benefit by the increase in public confidence. The maker of worthless preparations would go to the wall, which in time would be to the advantage of those who placed on the market only an honest product.

To summarize, the protective effect of the Federal Law is so apparent, no one would have the temerity to suggest its repeal; the druggists—many of them—are tired of the uncertainty connected with the sale of secret patent remedies; the pharmacist, if the patents were dropped, could hope for better pay and deserved recognition; the honest physician could use with confidence a preparation bearing the formula; the manufacturer would have nothing to lose if his medicine was effective; finally, the secret patent preparation is on the run and it is common sense to accept the situation and to join the ranks of those who live and act in the belief that there are some things which have a greater value than just money.

Is it desirable to protect from themselves the credulous and the ignorant? Is it desirable to condemn a dishonest business standard? Is it desirable to lift the retail drug business to a higher plane? Is it desirable to warn and teach suffering humanity? I leave with you the answer.

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#### THE DRUGGIST AS NOTARY PUBLIC.\*

BY EMIL ROLLER.

The vocation of the American Pharmacist being partly scientific and partly commercial compels him to pay just as much attention to the commercial side

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\* Read before Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing, A. Ph. A., Chicago meeting, 1918.

of his business as to the ethical, and often more to the former than to the latter. He therefore has to carry a great many side-lines not pertaining to pharmacy at all, in order to earn a livelihood. Now instead of reaching out for more side-lines, I should like to call the attention of my colleagues to a vocation entirely compatible with their professional standing, I mean that of Notary Public.

Since it is required by the Pharmaceutical Syllabus that each college of pharmacy of acknowledged good standing must include in its curriculum seventy-five hours of lectures in Commercial Law and Business Practice, the young pharmacist, having attended such a course, is by reason of the training he has acquired at these lectures able to perform the duties of a Notary Public a great deal better than many of the persons in whom this office of public trust is now vested. The general duty of a Notary Public consists mostly in taking affidavits and acknowledgments of signatures on legal papers, protesting of notes, executing of bills of sale, leases, mortgages, powers of attorneys, etc., etc. The income from these sources ranges from twenty-five cents for common acknowledgments, to two dollars and fifty cents for protesting notes, and then to between five dollars and twenty-five dollars for executing leases, bills of sale and other more involved documents. The receipts from the execution of these papers and similar ones is clear profit involving only the time consumed in drawing them up.

The wording of these papers is not as difficult as it seems at first sight, because printed forms are obtainable with the proper phraseology and it necessitates only the filling in of names and other stipulations agreed upon between the interested parties to complete the document.

The holding of the office of Notary Public will add greatly to the standing of the pharmacist in his community. To be appointed to the office it is best to procure the services of a lawyer or of your congressman. After the appointment, it is always advisable to see a lawyer and get instructions on essential points in making out documents to conform with the law of the State where the instrument is executed.

Nearly all official documents must either be acknowledged or sworn to before a Notary Public. His services therefore are required frequently.

I strongly recommend to my fellow pharmacists to either have themselves appointed, or procure an appointment for one of their clerks. This suggestion, if followed, will bring a great many people into the appointee's place of business who would otherwise not have come, and my experience has proven that they will ultimately become regular customers.

The druggist as a Notary is a public convenience.

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## HISTORY OF GLASS, ANCIENT AND MODERN.\*

BY W. W. FIGGIS.

Among the first discoveries due to chance, and perfected by man's intellect, glass is certainly one of the most important.

Although glass satisfies a considerable number of our most ordinary wants, it is also to *it* that we must attribute, to a large degree, the ever progressive march

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\* Read before Section on Historical Pharmacy, A. Ph. A., Chicago meeting, 1918.