

Mutual Obligations of Jobber and Retailer.

There is a mutual dependence in business of the greatest importance, namely that of jobber upon retailer and retailer upon jobber. The retail merchant depends upon the jobber for his supply of goods to sell, and very naturally demands that the goods shall be forthcoming promptly when they are needed, according to the orders placed for them. On the other hand, the jobber depends upon the retailer for such remittances of money in payment for the goods as shall replenish his coffers and enable him to continue in business.

The jobber has therefore the right to demand of the retailer the same promptness in remitting for goods purchased as the retailer has to demand of the jobber in shipping the goods. The retailer, before placing orders, examines into the resources of the jobber, sometimes in a perfunctory way, but nevertheless in such a manner as to satisfy himself that he is depending upon no uncertain support. He places his orders with a given jobber only when he has the assurance that the goods will be forthcoming. The jobber surely has the same right to investigate the retailer, in order to know that the corresponding payments will be forthcoming when due.

The only plan which the jobber has for his investigation of the retailer that is competent to secure such a statement of his affairs as is appropriate under the circumstances is to frankly ask the retailer to tell him the whole truth about himself. This is the foundation of the request for a property statement now so common.

A recent writer, treating upon this subject, has said: "The giving of a statement by one who asks credit at the hands of another is simply exchanging an honest confession for the influence of the good opinion, the confidence and the esteem to be derived therefrom. To extend credit does not alone imply the trusting out of a sum of money. It embraces that closer communion wherein men seek to know each other to that degree of confidence upon which implicit trust is built. Giving a statement of one's condition implies honesty of purpose. Giving it readily, in response to the request of the credit man, lays the initial foundation for confidence, and always promotes a healthy condition and mutual interest which can be secured

only through the channel of honor."—*Walton Day (Bulletin of Pharmacy)*.

Patent Medicines in Japan.

The Japanese Government has decided to raise the tax on patent medicines, but the rate has not yet been fixed. It will probably mean an advance from 10 per cent. to 30 per cent., with a corresponding increase in the customs duty. The consumption of secret medicines in Japan is enormous, the business being carried on by peripatetic vendors, who, during the Tokugawa regime, were offered every encouragement by the various daimios to visit their respective domains. The most important seat of this patent medicine industry is Tomava, in Etchu prefecture, whence it is calculated that 10,000 peripatetic vendors annually sally forth to go on their rounds through the country. The custom is for a selection of the medicines most commonly required to be left at the house by these vendors, who return a year later and receive payment for what has been used. — *American Druggist*.

A Synopsis of the British Pharmacopœia Preparations.

Designed for the use of Pharmaceutical and Medical Students.

BY

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Dean, Professor of Pharmacy, and Director of the Pharmaceutical Laboratory at the Ontario College of Pharmacy; Associate Professor of Materia Medica and Elementary Therapeutics, Medical Faculty, University of Toronto; Author of Manual of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Chemistry; Urinalysis; Notes on Volumetric Analysis, etc. Price, \$1.50.

This commentary on the 1898 edition of the British Pharmacopœia, which has just appeared, deserves to find a place, as no doubt it will, not only in the colleges and laboratories of our own land, but throughout our great Empire wherever the B.P. is recognized as a standard authority. One is at once struck with the vast amount of information given in such small space. The methods of arrangement of the subject matter and the skillful manner in which it has been handled gives evidence that the book is the work of one who is at once a practical pharmacist and an experienced teacher. Complexity of arrangement and all unnecessary details have been avoided and many points of practical value inserted, and we see in this little work a book for the undergraduate as well as the practising pharmacist, and we congratulate the

author upon having completed this work of real value.

Every undergraduate in pharmacy or medicine, whether attending some college or serving an apprenticeship prior to college attendance, should avail himself of this valuable help in gaining a knowledge of official pharmacy and dispensing. Interleaved pages are provided for the insertion of additional notes.

The several classes of pharmaceutical preparations are concisely, though fully, defined under each head, and the general method of preparation given, also manner of dispensing and of administration, instructions as to properly storing in order to either prevent or retard injury through decomposition, etc., etc.

The B.P. leaves the student in the dark as to the whys and wherefores of many preparations, on which the synopsis throws much light. Much thought has been given to the classification of various preparations and the systematic way in which they are arranged will greatly aid the student in committing them to memory.

The special information given on the various classes of preparations, and the dispensing notes presented, show conclusively that the author is up to-date in his ideas and practice. Precautions are given concerning the dispensing of certain preparations under aseptic conditions.

The several standardized preparations now so prominent in the B.P. are classified by themselves under the heads to which they belong, which is a great convenience.

The table given for the dilution of alcohol is in itself worth much more than the price of the book to the busy pharmacist. All tedious and complicated calculations are made unnecessary, for by glancing at this table one can at once see how to dilute commercial alcohol to the various strengths required in preparing B.P. preparations.

The book is neatly, tastefully and strongly bound and well printed.

To preserve eggs, Professor Deitrich, in the *Pharm. Zeitung*, lately advises the following formula: Take 25 parts solution of sodium silicate with 75 parts of well water. The well water to be first boiled, but to be cooled off again before using. He says that six months afterwards eggs preserved in this liquor are in good condition, and their whites may be beaten into a froth.