

### Dispensing as it Was and Is to be.

Wm. Gilmer, in an address before the Dundee Chemists' Assistants' and Apprentices' Association, says:—

In days gone by, potions, plasters, juleps, and other concoctions which the privileged apothecary supplied to the order of the physician gave way to what we now regard as a more rational system, and complex confectations and mixtures became the simpler preparations. At present we see an even greater change taking place. The natural products of the vegetable kingdom are being replaced by artificial chemical products. It has long been the hope of science to produce in the laboratory the active principals found in plants, and which modern methods of working have isolated and placed at the service of prescribers; and this hope—not yet realized, or at least only to a small degree—has led up to other chemical issues of great importance in the synthesis of bodies exerting a powerful action on the human organism and capable of employment in medicine. To draw a fancy picture, with a possibility of more than fancy in it, we may find that the Pharmacopœia of the future will be devoted entirely to alkaloids, organic bodies, and the salts of a few metals. The galenicals of our present time will have entirely disappeared, and even the so-called elegant preparations of certain houses will have passed into oblivion along with the historic houses which produced them. The pharmacist, pure and simple, will be the sole surviving member of the drug trade, and there will be no one between him and the great firms devoted to the manufacture of the purely chemical substances save the general merchants, who will supply in smaller put up packages what he can only purchase in large original cases. Even among the great firms or corporations competition will have specialized manufacture and monopolies will be created. The wholesale druggist of today who conducts a somewhat complex business, who manufactures galenicals and chemicals, and buys on the various markets, and distributes his heterogeneous stock among 1,000 or more customers, will have disappeared, along with opium, cinchona, and other crude natural products. The latter will be remembered only as valuable commodities which once supplied the race with well known articles, such as morphia, quinine, etc. Dispensing will consist principally in rearranging compressed pellets, gelatin discs, capsules, granules, etc., in smaller packages, and labelling with directions for use by the patient. The pharmacist at such period will not, however, be considered a mere distributor (a sort of improved automatic machine from which a coin of small value will produce almost any article required), but will be regarded by the law and the public as an educated man capable of deciding at a glance which one of some thousand combinations of some particular group is intended.

### Market Report.

Business during the past month has been quiet as compared with the busy month previous. No startling changes have taken place in prices.

Linseed screened is higher.

Tartaric Acid is unchanged, but later on an advance is predicted.

Codeia is advancing.

Iodines—The combination has not yet come to an agreement, and prices are nominal.

Morphia continues to advance, but is yet too low as compared with the prices of opium.

Opium—A large business has been done on advancing prices; further advance probable as the present crop is nearly all destroyed owing to the bad weather.

Antipyrine—Owing to supplies coming forward, prices have resumed old figures.

Insect Powder, has opened the season at low figures and a good deal has been sold for forward delivery; a good deal offered at very low prices; is not as strong as powdered closed flowers.

Paris green is being offered at less than cost of laying it down; many are buying now, for if a new duty is imposed as is expected higher prices will rule.

Hellebore—Prices range a little lower than last year.

Higher—Codeia, Guarans, Morphia, Opium, Quinine, Rad Ipecac, Colchicum Seeds. Gum Senegals, easier; Arabic, unchanged.

Camphor has again advanced, and with prospect of still higher prices.

English advices indicate a weakness in price of Citric and Tartaric Acids and Bals Tolu, and a firmness in prices of Rhubarb, Glycerine, and Oil of Burgamot.

### Pharmacy in Norway.

Views of the exterior and interior of a typical Norwegian pharmacy were shown, and much admired, the latter being the signal for a general outburst of enthusiasm. The unique character of the pictures was such that one almost felt tempted to walk into the pharmaceutical establishment. The recess labelled bottles, and old style drawers, gave a clearer idea than the most elaborate description of the progress of pharmacy in this interesting region.

The business done in these pharmacies is confined to drugs and dispensing, and to the preparation and sale of pharmaceutical preparations. In Bergen, where there are about 40,000 of a population, the pharmacies number only five or six. Many of the assistants are middle-aged men. Two compulsory examinations have to be passed,

and a successful curriculum has long been in force here. The prices, compared with ours, are low, and the style of sending out medicines to prescription antiquated. A very unique photograph was next exhibited showing the style in which the medicines are sent out. The labels are tied to the necks of the bottles in the manner in vogue with our old apothecaries about 50 years ago. A neat set of labels was next projected on the screen. The designs on these, surrounding the name of the pharmacist, are symbolical of the healing art, Æsculapius frequently playing an important part. Snakes also, with and without the father of medicine, are seen to drink from cups and fountains in the orthodox fashion. All medicines for internal administration, the lecturer went on to say, are sent out labelled with white labels, and for external use with red. If the lotion, or what not, contains poison an adhesive poison label is attached. This bears the usual word "gift," meaning poison; the designs of the poison labels speak by well-known hieroglyphics, the three crosses (which recalled the view of the wooden memorial crosses in the Vossevangen churchyard, Mr. Howie had just exhibited), the skull and cross bones are also conspicuous. The powder papers, too, are printed with the name and address of the pharmacist. Bottles are wrapped in papers, sometimes of various tints, on which the name of the pharmacy and the proprietor are elaborately engraved. Pharmacies in Norway are named as hotels in this country—the "Lion," the "Heron," and the "Swan" (Svaneapotheket—Johan Lothe). The "Lion" pharmacy is situated in the Strandgadden, the main street of Bergen.—Mr. Howie before Dundee Chemist Assistant Association—British and Colonial Druggist.

For Warts.—Kaposi suggests the use of one part of bichloride of mercury dissolved in thirty parts of collodion, a little of the solution being painted on and around the base of the wart once daily.

Every line of goods embodies a history and a science worth years of study to understand.

One thing in particular should be impressed upon clerks—the necessity of careful attention to small customers.

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