

readiness to take up new ideas, and new lines of policy, new views of subjects which may be entertained by those with whom we may be dealing, is often wanting in Englishmen, perhaps more especially in those who have had good schooling and a thorough drilling, rather than the education developed by practical work, and the contending with natural difficulties. A curriculum followed by an examination is like a brick-making machine, the clay is put in, the pressure is put on, and the square man is turned out; perhaps very soft at first; and it depends upon what quality he is made of—how he stands fire, and whether he remains square for the term of his days.

The knowledge which a man gains before examination should be like a bundle of roots, capable of growth, and, though some are likely to decay, others ought to go on developing and yielding him profit and pleasure for the remainder of his days. It does not follow that the knowledge which is most profitable is directly productive of the greatest number of pence. I have learned more botany since I passed my examination than I did before, and am not aware that I have profited a single penny directly from the acquaintanceship, but the profit of life is not counted entirely in pennies.

THE EXAMINATION ROOM V. THE PHARMACY.

The examiner puts a little difficulty into the hands of the candidate and insures that he has no interruption and nothing to distract his attention. In the shop a customer puts into his hands a prescription, and wants to talk the politics of the day while the medicine is being made up, and if the dispenser has any hesitation and fails to look happy under trying circumstances it is apt to be a bad job for him, and a worse job still if in the endeavor to conceal his difficulty he fails to do the right thing. Coolness will be just as difficult to maintain under the eye of the customer as under the observation of the examiner, who knows the difficulty which has been presented, and knows how much it is reasonable to expect from the sufferer under torture. Candidates are very like asafetida—if they have had a good grind and keep very cool they may pass through the sieve very satisfactorily, but under the influence of less rigorous surroundings they may again run into amorphous lumps. The curriculum and examination together are intended to do something towards securing that equality of opportunity which is so much desired by the simple-minded philanthropists of the present day, but so long as pharmacists have different fathers and mothers there will always be inequalities. The first question in the preliminary ought to be, "What is your mother?" and it would be a mercy if every candidate were rejected who could not say that his mother was a careful and thoughtful woman, from whom he had inherited and by whom he had had developed these same valuable qualities. If

this were happily so, the diploma would only be a touch of gold upon the true metal of which the man was made.

THE LIMITATION OF PHARMACISTS.

If pharmacists are to be skilled men, their numbers must be limited to so many as can make a living by the practice of that calling. The limitation might be by act of parliament, as we find in some other countries, or it might be by natural law. If act of parliament could secure pharmacy to the qualified man, and could ensure that no others should work the craft, natural law would probably do the rest. If the practice of pharmacy provides the income that enables a pharmacist to pay for eggs and bacon, he will probably prefer to practise pharmacy and eat eggs and bacon rather than sell eggs and bacon that he may live. The qualification required of the pharmacist might so far deter entries into the trade as to keep the numbers within the limit that would find enough work for each to keep his hands in practice and his mind stored with knowledge. The chief difficulty will always be the supply of fairly competent men in sparsely populated districts. This need cannot be neglected in any scheme worthy of national acceptance. The present minor, followed by a sufficient supply of work to keep the hand well in, would be enough to aim at for a generation or two, and would be better than the major degree followed by a subsequent stagnation from the want of work to do. The voluntary position of the major degree will still tempt the better class of men, and as an honorary and scientific distinction it may be made of a higher character than at present, but as a door to legal status it is for the time being too high. Great physicians, great lawyers, and great accountants are found in great populations. You may have great bigots in little villages, because bigotry grows greater by want of friction with fellow-men; or you may have great philosophers, because solitude and leisure encourage thought; but as men cannot be great pharmacists with little practice, in a truly rural district a major man will become minor by degrees, and beautifully less as his dispensing becomes less in proportion to his miscellaneous trade; still, he had better sell ducks' eggs than take to quacking himself. The only truly satisfactory position for pharmaceutical education would be that the public should so appreciate the advantage of their dispensing and the supply of dangerous drugs being in the hands of skilful men that there should be a demand for high-class pharmacists, and the demand for learned men should create a demand for learning. By no other process would the demand be a healthy, a natural, and a fruitful one.

THE POINTS SUMMARIZED.

To summarize my points:

Competent pharmacists are the product of practice.

Practice depends upon the fraction work

and one day or other of the fact-workers, tors must be multiplied or divided till there is about a day's work per day for each worker.

In sparsely populated places there must be some trade associated with dispensing. The best trade for the purpose is the sale of drugs upon trade principles.

The best education is that which a man naturally seeks to enable him to practise his calling with success.

The best examination is that which estimates the habitual endeavor to do good work.

"Pre-charter" circumstances developed many eminent pharmacists.

Post-charter circumstances have not developed greater, perhaps not even greater numbers of, eminent pharmacists. —*Pharmaceutical Journal* (London).

Formic Aldehyde in the Treatment of Ringworm.

Having found that pure cultures of both forms of trichophyton quickly succumb to even the vapors of formic aldehyde, and that no subsequent growth was ever obtained from infested hairs which had been dipped in the 40 per cent. solution for five minutes, Dr. Salter was induced to try the local application of the remedy in the out-patient department of Guy's Hospital. Forty cases were operated on, the strong solution being applied with a brush or mop for ten minutes, the treatment being repeated every other day on four occasions, and then discontinued. Only five cases required the method to be repeated; in the rest the fungus was completely eradicated. The application causes irritation and discomfort for a brief period, but does not vesicate the scalp; it produces, however, a thick crust, to remove which an emollient should be employed. A remarkable complication was noticed; in a few cases oedema of the face was noted some hours after the painting. In one case this was so marked as to prevent vision, from swelling of the eyelids; there was no pain, redness, or constitutional disturbance, and it quickly passed off. —*Pharmaceutical Journal*.

Female Pharmacists in Hungary.

The Hungarian Minister of Education issued regulations on August 10 of this year under which women will be allowed to take up the calling of pharmacy, being subjected to the same regulations concerning the time of study, experience, etc., as are already enforced for the men. It is an open question whether the women who have passed the State examinations under the Hungarian regulations will be permitted to practise in Austria. As yet no official action has been taken in the matter by the Austrian Government.