

## What a Drug Store Should be.

BY ONE WHO IS NOT A DRUGGIST.

MR. EDITOR,—I think I have a right to express my opinion upon the requisites of a drug store which shall be in every respect fitted to meet the requirements of our modern civilization. Your readers may say I have not, but if not I, then who? Is it not for the general public that they are fitted up? Is it not the convenience of the public which is consulted in the internal arrangement of a drug store? Am I not one of the G. P.? Are not the directory, the telephone and the etceteras for our convenience? Then have I not a right to suggest? I HAVE, and suggest I will, and freely, so here goes. It may be that my suggestions may be too sweeping in the changes proposed, it may be that your readers will think I am loony, but as I have my own ideas on the subject of drug stores I am going to air them. It makes no difference that I have had no experience, for the less one knows of a subject the more ready he is to offer advice. I have recently picked up in my friend's store a journal which contained an elaborate picture of the interior of a drug store. It looked nice, but I don't go much on the aesthetic, and this picture it was that set me to thinking over the actual and indispensable requisites of a model store, which would possess convenience, accommodation, safety and comfort, but to obtain these one of the chief requisites is to have a revolving door set in one side of the building, and opening on the street. This would be easy, as all drug stores are on the corner. This door would be constructed so that the inner side would be a sort of recess, and the whole turning on a centre would, when turned, present the recess to the open street. Upon a shelf in this recess would be firmly fixed a decanter and a glass. The use to which this door could be put will be apparent when one of these fly young men or middle aged tipplers step up to the soda fountain and with wink and leer asks for some "ginger" with his soda. He would be conducted to the revolving door, told to help himself, and as soon as he lays hold on the decanter, presto! the door swings him into the street and returns for another victim. For this piece of ingenuity I claim originality, but any of your readers is free to use it for a valuable consideration. For other pests special contrivances will be devised upon application.

A word as to the counters of the store; they may remain as they are, only a place must be provided so that the customer may easily get behind, so as to whisper that he only "wants it for a friend." There must be upon the counters also a full line of perfumes, toilet articles, etc., and don't put your perfumes in one of those patent racks which locks up the bottle. I am a steady patron of this branch, and it is confusing and humiliating to me to attempt to sample a bottle of

white rose and find I can only attain to the stopper; it looks like a want of confidence on the druggist's part; and I don't like it. Another trick I saw lately which cast a reflection upon the public (of which I am one.) You know those tooth-soap boxes which stand up on end and have each a little box of tooth soap in a recess? Well, some of the manufacturers print the word "SOLD" in big letters, so that it will appear when a box of tooth soap is removed. I removed one the other day, and what do you think I saw? That unprincipled druggist had pasted the word "STOLEN" just so that it appeared when I took out the soap. I was only going to look at it.

About the prescription case; I don't see any sense in having it turned so that the customer can't see what is going on. Turn it around, so one can watch the prescription clerk and see that he makes no mistake. It gives the customer increased confidence if he can superintend his prescription himself.

Above all don't keep any poisons, and there will be no serious mistakes. Upon this point I would dilate through the advertising columns of the papers.

The cigar case, now here's an important thing. It should be arranged in common with the rest of the show cases, so that if the clerk is busy the customer can help himself, without any tedious waiting. This would doubtless increase largely the consumption of cigars, and, as I am an inveterate smoker, I hope to see my druggist adopt this improvement, but after his action in regard to perfumes and tooth soap, I am doubtful of it, and think seriously of transferring my custom to the druggist across the way from him.

I have now laid out plans for counters, show cases and prescription place, but have said nothing about that most important adjunct the telephone. Now don't, please don't put this in a back room where one has to run a gauntlet of clerks and proprietors before reaching it! Put it boldly out in front in a convenient place so that one in a hurry may run in and use it without asking, and by all means take down the sign "Pay telephone." It looks so mercenary, you know.

The directory must be placed so that it will afford young ladies an excuse for coming into the store, and it must be supplied with a self-repeating map, so that every one who consults it may bear away a map for future reference. Under the present directory system only the first man to look at it gets a map. Too much stress cannot be laid upon the fact that to be popular the druggist must provide conveniences for the public, especially the lords of creation. A tireless small boy is indispensable, you are so often requested through the 'phone to "just send up and tell my wife I won't be home until late; I'm going to the hic lodge," and a boy must be on hand to go. He will not, per-

haps, have time to attend to any of his duties in the store, but you can do all that yourself. Many more conveniences for the public might be suggested, but I think this is all they can appreciate at present.

The physician must not be overlooked, but special consideration must be given to his needs, which are of a peculiar kind, and will be treated of in a future article, if I don't get hold of the aconite bottle sometime through mistake.

VICTORIA, B.C., Feb. 23, 1890.

Editor CANADIAN DRUGGIST.

DEAR SIR,—The committee appointed to carry out the will of the meeting of druggists held January 28th, have found it impossible to get a member of the House to introduce the bill, they all deeming it unpopular. The committee think it wise not to push the matter this session.

It has been suggested that a Provincial Druggists Association be formed prior to the next general election, when we could bring pressure to bear upon the candidates.

Yours truly,

T. SHOTBOLT,  
T. M. HENDERSON, } Victoria  
D. E. CAMPBELL, } Committee.

## Pharmaceutical Association of the Province of Quebec.

The Semi-Annual Examinations for Major and Minor Candidates will commence on Tuesday, April 8th, 1890, at 6.30 P. M., and will be held in the Lecture Room, 223 McGill Street, Montreal. Candidates must file their applications, duly certified, with the Registrar on or before the 29th of March. Printed regulations and form of application must be obtained from the Registrar, and be duly signed by the applicant.

E. MUIR,  
Registrar.

MONTREAL, March 6th, 1890.

## Literary Note.

P. Blackiston, Son & Co., Philadelphia, will publish about March 15th, a new Medical Dictionary, by George M. Gould, A. B., M. D. It will be a compact one volume book, containing several thousand new words and definitions, collected from recent medical literature, while the total number of words is beyond that in any similar book. It includes also elaborate and useful tables of the Bacilli, Leucomaines, Potmaines, Micrococci, etc.; of the Arteries, Nerves, etc., and of the Mineral Springs of the U. S., together with other collateral information.

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