

Similarly, it may be remarked, that, whilst no care is taken by the persons chiefly interested to observe such a simple precaution as reading the label on a bottle of medicine, it is quite useless to expect, as the result of imposing more harassing restrictions upon chemists and druggists, that there will be any appreciable diminution in the number of victims. It is the greatest rarity in this country for a case of accidental poisoning to be due to carelessness on the part of a legally qualified dispenser, and, were the precautions he takes but supplemented by a reasonable amount of care on the part of the public, such accidents as we have recently recorded would be rendered impossible of occurrence.

There should be a fixed rule observed in every place where medicine is used that nothing should ever be taken from a bottle until the wrapper is fully removed, and the label should be carefully read each time before a dose is poured out. Further than this, any bottle that has contained poisonous compounds and is not required for the same purpose immediately should be at once destroyed, whilst bottles and packets that contain medicines, and from which the labels have disappeared, should, with their contents, receive the same treatment.

By the observance of these slight details, there is every reason to believe that the desired protection would be effected much more readily than by the imposition of further legal restriction, and it is only fair to the chemist and druggist that his constant watchfulness in such matters should be rendered fully effectual by the public lending him their active support and sympathy.

WHAT IS THE REMEDY?

For now these many years the condition of pharmacy as a business has been discussed with concern by those who are dependent upon it for a livelihood. While making due allowance for the "hard times talk" one is accustomed to always hearing in all kinds of business, it must

still be admitted that profits have been seriously reduced; this reduction often meaning a wholly inadequate return for the labor involved and sometimes ending in business extinction.

SEVENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PHILADELPHIA COLLEGE OF PHARMACY, 1897.

Previous to 1840 pharmacists were not recognized in pharmacopoeial conventions, but in that year the college was invited to co-operate with the committee on Final Publication and Revision. Since then pharmacists have so improved their position that at the last convention in 1890 they numbered sixteen of the twenty-six members. Since the establishment of the institution 14,661 students have matriculated, and 4,416 persons have taken the degree of Graduate in Pharmacy.

BLEACHING SPONGES.

"Inquirer," Florida.—The following method is the one said to be commonly employed:

First prepare two solutions according to the appended formulas:—

I.

Potassium permanganate 25 grs.
Pure water 1 pt.

II.

Sodium hyposulphite 2 ozs.
Hydrochloric acid 1 fl. oz.
Water 1 pt.

Dissolve the hyposulphite in the water, add the acid, let stand 24 hours and decant from the sediment. The solution should be made in the open air, care being taken not to inhale the fumes that arise.

Free the sponges from sand or other extraneous matter first by beating, and then washing thoroughly with water. Squeeze them as dry as possible, and then immerse them in the solution of permanganate, allowing them to remain in the liquid a few moments, or until they acquire a dark brown color.