

CANADIAN DRUGGIST.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE GENERAL DRUG TRADE AND TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF PHARMACY

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Druggists' Profits.

The druggists of Toronto are very justly incensed at the unwarrantable attack made upon them by the *Evening Telegram*, which under the guise of acting in the public interest, sought to show that the druggists' patrons paid for the use of technical names irrespective of the value of the material furnished under them. As the public in general are most willing to believe what they know least about, the paper was enabled to make out, in their estimation, a fair and reasonable case. It goes without saying, however, that no changes in city prices, which are based upon fair and universal grounds, will result from the attack made, in which the *Telegram* is copying the example set by a reporter of the *New York World* in one of those periodical attacks which seem to afflict some portions of the daily press, but in which they are peculiarly unhappy in the selection of their subject and display their ignorance in the treatment of it. Writers on subjects of this kind are apt to go so far astray that their calculations are frequently made on a very erroneous basis. As we have stated in these columns before, the cost of an article cannot be based merely on the invoice price at which the goods are purchased from the jobber, as once the goods are placed in the store an additional percentage must be added for rent, insurance, salaries and other incidental expenses connected with the sale of these goods, as well as depreciation in values, loss in handling, etc. Then added to this the skill which must be employed in the sale and dispensing of medicines. Does the public give fair consideration to the fact that they are protected in these matters by strictly enforced laws, in

which the druggist is amenable for any transgression of them, and do they consider that the druggist serves faithfully his four years of constant study and passes his severe examination for what? In order to reap riches, to lay by wealth and live in ease and comfort? If so, very few gain the goal of their ambition. No, rather from a love of their profession and a true protector of the people's interests in a case which may be life or death. Does the physician who merely makes a diagnosis of a case, and writes a prescription, make only the same charge as a man who would occupy the same time in the performance of ordinary manual labor?

It is stated that in the course of the interview by the reporter "a well known doctor informed the *Telegram* that a druggist had to put in just one eighth the study that a doctor had, and to graduate had to attend the College of Pharmacy for only one term, lasting in all three or four months." We have yet to learn at what college the physician puts in his 32 years term, for this would be eight times the length of the student in pharmacy. Possibly this is the college from which the other physician graduated who says he prescribed "aqua calens," a preparation we must confess unknown to the pharmacist of the present generation. And by the way, speaking of prescriptions, on what ground can a physician justify the charge of two dollars for prescribing in a case which he himself declared was unnecessary. But looking at another phase of the subject, we are told that in one case that the store was found closed and the night bell sounded. The proprietor appeared and put up the prescription. Why, if the druggist is looked upon as a mere tradesman, should he be at the beck and call of anyone who might postpone his purchase until so late an hour? Or, why should a druggist be expected to give his skill and knowledge of medicines and the proper preparation of them without proper remuneration? This the public neither expects nor wishes. "The laborer is worthy of his hire," and certainly the more skilled the labor, the more responsible and arduous the duties, the larger and more adequate should be the remuneration.

Professor Sittig, of Strasburg, has, it is said, made the important discovery that pyocetanin, an aniline derivate, is an also hite destroyer of pus in any quantity.

Professional and Practical Pharmacy.

It has long been a debatable point as to whether the practice of pharmacy can properly be termed professional, and while the writer makes no pretensions of being able to solve so knotty a question, he is perfectly willing to give his views upon the matter.

The requisites essential to secure professionalism are, usually, a definite training for a specific purpose, the time and nature of such training being controlled by legislative enactment, the state thus becoming a sponsor for the member upon whom it ultimately confers the professional mantle.

Up to this point we can readily agree that, in a comparative sense, the pharmacist in fulfilling the conditions required of him by the state to enable him to practice, is fairly entitled to the professional appellation conferred upon others fulfilling similar conditions for other purposes. Here, however, the connection ends, as while others commence to practice purely in a professional sense the pharmacist embraces trade with his professional work; the trade portion comprising the dealing in articles free to the sale of any tradesman, while the professional portion must remain under his sole control, or those qualified in a similar manner, as members of the medical profession. The fact that the pharmacist is obliged to win sustenance very largely by ordinary means of trade and in competition to a great extent with those considered on a somewhat lower scale in life's work, very materially affects the professional aspirations, which might otherwise be entertained. It is true in this, however, as in other professions, that we are what we make ourselves. The reputation of the body is the combined reputation of its members. If our inclinations are acquisitive we naturally pursue a course having that end in view, and as the professional part of our work offers but few allurements to the lover of the "evil root," the practical trade portion is attended to in such a manner as to speedily secure for us the reputation of shrewd and capable business men. Those who on the other hand devote their lives and energies to professional attainment are obliged to satisfy themselves with honorable distinction as the only trophy obtainable, and with the thought that however little they may personally have benefitted, they have