

## PHARMACY ABROAD.

**DRUG STORES IN SWITZERLAND.**—That country, with a population of 2,933,331, has 491 pharmacies, or an average of one store for every 5,974 inhabitants. One district with 62,000 inhabitants has but two drug stores. A happy lot indeed must be that of these two apothecaries, having to furnish pills, powders and potions for 31,000 people, for neither one has time to devote to cutting the prices of his neighbor.

**PROPORTIONAL NUMBER OF PHARMACIES TO THE INHABITANTS OF GERMANY.**—According to the *Chem. Ztg.*, 67 new pharmacies ought to be established in about 20 of the larger towns of Germany, in order to have one pharmacy to 10,000 inhabitants.

**THEY TOLD THE SULTAN.**—Some one seems to have told the Sultan that chlorate of potash is a dangerous explosive. Consequently no druggist or pharmacist in Constantinople is allowed to possess or sell it. The Grand Master of Artillery alone is allowed to have it in keeping. This is very much as if anybody in London suffering from hoarseness had to go down to Woolwich Arsenal and beg the commandant to give him a few potash lozenges. —*Echo*.

**A PHARMACEUTICAL EXHIBITION** will take place in Frankfurt, a.m., this year, in connection with the general meeting of the German Apotheker Verrin.

**FEMALE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN BELGIUM.**—The number has diminished since last year from 40 to 10, because of the new regulations of study involving a considerable increase in the severity of the examinations.

**ASSISTANTS IN AUSTRIA.**—Considerable dissatisfaction exists, through reforms as to hours of service, salary, holidays and night service being asked for, through their representative association in Vienna, the Wiener Assistenten-Verein, "by a circular sent to all chemists' associations in Austria." The matter has been deliberated by the latter already, and as far as possible it will be settled favorably to the assistants, as many of their claims have been found reasonable. —*Pharm. Post.*

**MEDICINE BOTTLES.**—The *Newcastle Chronicle* says:—"A law worthy of imitation everywhere has just been passed in Germany. It is designed as a precaution against accidental poisoning, and it is truly an excellent precaution. Hereafter the bottle itself, as well as its label, must show whether the contained drug is for internal use or for external application. In the latter case it must be put only in hexagonal bottles, in the former case the bottle must be round. The public, once made familiar with this simple and ingen-

ious contrivance, will be safe-guarded as they have never been before against accidental poisoning."

**OPPOSITION TO WOMEN CHEMISTS.**—There is a movement on foot in Austria, and especially in Bohemia, to admit women to the business of a chemist. It suggested that girls should study chemistry at the public schools, and on qualifying by examination, they should be appointed assistants; but the apothecaries of the Empire will have none of it. They protest vehemently against the innovation, and public meetings have been held upon the subject. The Government is petitioned against allowing the competition of women in a business which has hitherto been pursued only by males.

### Pharmacy in Norway.

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The most striking features concerning Norwegian pharmacies is the distinctive sign that adorns each. This relic of ancient custom, demonstrating the time when people could not read, seems curiously out of place in a country where education is as compulsory as in England. The principal favorites are the signs of the lion, elephant, swan and eagle, and these occur in every large town. The shop or *apotheket* has the professional appearance so peculiar to continental pharmacies. A blind of judicious height, just low enough to permit the usual row of bottles on their shelves to be seen, ornamented with a gilded picture of the particular sign of the pharmacy, constitutes the entire window display.

For many of the details concerning the licenses and examinations, I am indebted to the courtesy of Mr. M. B. Strom, *Apotheket Ornen*, Fredrickshald.

The right to carry on a business in Norway is strictly limited by licenses, of which there are two kinds. The first is a concession granted directly by the Government as occasion demands, the other is only to be bought when offered for sale by the former proprietor. The privilege granted by the Government is never conferred on a pharmacist under 15 or 20 years from the date of his passing the qualifying examination, and the number each year is determined and strictly adhered to. There are 110 proprietors of pharmacies in Norway, of whom 50 have bought their right to set up in business, and at a heavy premium. Widows of pharmacists are permitted to carry on the business provided they employ a qualified manager, whose name is duly registered in connection with the pharmacy.

To become an *apotheker*, or pharmacist, three examinations have to be passed. Before apprenticeship, which is fixed at three years, a preliminary in common knowledge is demanded, which includes Latin, English, mathematics, &c. The apprentice is usually paid a small salary, and his services can be transferred to another pharmacist if both he and his employer desire

it. The next examination is really to qualify as assistant, as it confers the right of dispensing and selling medicines, but only as an assistant. The final examination is stiller and more theoretical, but usually taken within a few years of the assistants' examination. This examination for the title of pharmacist is held at the University of Christiania, both studies and examinations being conducted there. There is no pharmaceutical school or college, but one is to be inaugurated this year, and lectures and laboratory courses are arranged. The number of registered pharmacists in Norway is over 400, assistants and apprentices each total about 70.

As the examinations are arranged, and virtually conducted, under the Government, there is no Pharmaceutical Society with functions similar to our own. There is, however, an Association of Norwegian Apothecaries of 100 members, and also a Pharmaceutical Union of Norway with 190 members. The recent announcement of a new edition of the Norwegian Pharmacopoeia is also a further indication of the vitality of our *colleagues*. The last edition, published in 1870, was in Latin, and was edited by a committee consisting of two medical men and two pharmacists. Drs. Moller and Hvorslef, the two pharmacists, both hold the Ph.D. degree of Christiania University. The former is a partner in the well-known firm of Peter Moller, of Christiania, whilst Dr. Hvorslef is the proprietor of one of the principal pharmacies in that city. The Norwegian journal of pharmacy is the *Norsk Farmac. Tidsskrift*, edited by J. W. Flood, at Christiania, who also edits the Pharmaceutical Calendar of Norway.

Throughout Scandinavia pharmacists make nearly all their own galenicals, and there are practically no wholesale manufacturers. The wholesale druggists sell chiefly such lines as oils, gums, glycerin, &c. Hamburg is the chief source from which these goods are obtained. Glassware is all German, and most of the pharmacies are fitted with the modern recess-labelled bottles, often of fancy moulded shapes, whilst powders are kept in wide-mouthed covered jars, with flat lids, similar to ointment pots.

The pharmacies are open from eight a.m. to nine or ten p.m., but the hours of assistants are half-past eight till seven p.m., and on one day in the week they leave at noon. Arrangements are usually made for one or two assistants to take in turn the later duty. On Sunday the shop is open, but only one or two assistants are necessary. Assistants' salaries average about £10 a year, if indoors, and little more than double this if outdoors. It must be remembered, however, that living is very much cheaper in Norway than in England.

Prices for all medicines and dispensing are fixed by a Governmental tariff. This is controlled and altered annually, the profit being generally fixed at about 100 p. cent. As the number of pharmacies is so limited, the volume of trade makes this profit