

CANADIAN PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY.

PRESIDENT, - - - WM. ELLIOT, Esq.

The regular meeting of the Society take place on the FIRST FRIDAY evening of each month, at the Mechanics' Institute, when, after the transaction of business, there is a paper read, or discussion engaged in, upon subjects of interest and value to the members.

The Society admits as members, Chemists and Druggists of good standing, and their assistants and apprentices, if elected by a majority vote, and on payment of the following fees:

Principals, - - - - \$4 00 per Annum
Assistants & Apprentices, 2 00 "

The JOURNAL is furnished FREE to all members.

Parties wishing to join the Society may send their names for proposal to any of the members of the Society. A copy of the Constitution and By-laws of the Society will be furnished on application.

HENRY J. ROSE, Secretary.

THE CANADIAN Pharmaceutical Journal.

E. B. SHUTTLEWORTH, EDITOR.

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Correspondence and general communications, of a character suited to the objects of this JOURNAL, are invited, and will always be welcome. The writer's name should accompany his communication, but not necessarily for publication.

Subscriptions will not be acknowledged by letter, as our sending the paper may be taken as sufficient evidence of the receipt of the money.

All communications connected with the paper to be addressed, post-paid,

"EDITOR CANADIAN PHARMACEUTICAL JOURNAL
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DOCTOR AND DRUGGIST.

Pharmacy has truly been termed the handmaiden of medicine. The relations of the two professions are of the closest and most intimate character; each has the same end in view, and without one the other could not exist. But though mutually dependent, the physician and pharmacist pursue different yet parallel paths; the calling of each is clearly marked out and well defined, and the shortest way to success in either is to "keep the road." There was a time in earlier, and we might say barbarous days, when the two vocations were vested in the same individual, but in that age medicine and pharmacy made but little progress. The terms ignorance, superstition, and quackery best describe the period when the calcination of a toad was the ultimatum of pharmaceutical art, and the administration of its ashes one of the highest achievements of therapeutic skill. We do not mean to say that this miserable state of

things was to be attributed, solely, to the fact of the dispensing of medicines being in the hands of the physician, but we think, nevertheless, that it had a retarding influence, and this is the more plausible when we consider that it was not until the severance of the two callings that pharmaceutical science could be said to exist.

There are times and circumstances when the physician may be perfectly justifiable in exercising this double vocation. In regions where the services of a pharmacist cannot readily be procured, and where drug stores are inaccessible, the doctor is compelled to dispense his own medicines. In a new country like our own this state of things frequently exists, but if a druggist is at hand we hold that to him alone belongs the right of preparing medicines. We know that there are very many incompetent and careless druggists, but as far as our own observation goes the dispensing physician is, as a rule, the worst of the lot. It sometimes happens that doctors of this class pay more attention to their drugs than to their patients—this is generally the case when drugs pay best—but it will nearly always be found that one or the other suffers. The profession of medicine or rather the practice of it, demands all the skill, and the utmost concentration of effort which any single individual can bestow upon it. The qualified pharmacist can relieve the physician of much responsibility and no inconsiderable share of labor by performing the part which legitimately belongs to him, and we know that in doing so he will have ample scope for his energies also. The testing of drugs—the estimation of their strength—the detection of adulteration—the manufacture and preparation of the various compounds, and the dispensing of medicine, are quite sufficient to engross the whole attention of one man.

But in order to perform, satisfactorily, these multifarious duties, a thorough qualification is necessary, and this can only be attained by preparatory training. If the confidence of the medical profession and the public is to be gained, it can only come through the channel of education. On this point we cannot do better than quote a few paragraphs from the *Michigan University Medical Journal*. In alluding to the subject of pharmaceutical education in the United States a writer says:—

But a very small proportion of our druggists have had facilities of college education in pharmacy. Without more exceptions than rules admit, they have received only the industrial opportunities of the drug-shop, and the tuition of its untaught masters, toward scientific preparation for life work. No profession furnishes occasion for more "self-made men;" perhaps no other scientific pro-

fession includes a larger number of such; young men, who, from chance books, with poor advice and fragmentary tuition, have made their own paths through to the high-ways of science, where they are now marching among scholars, and leading in research.

Difficulties may strengthen individuals, but it has not been shown that educational deprivation serves to cultivate classes of men. Suppose we had no medical colleges. Here and there a "learned blacksmith" would raise himself, with an acquired wealth of medical science. But those who have attempted the study of medicine in the preceptor's office, and have there tried the efficiency of instruction imparted by doctors full of business and rusty in learning; and then have found what lectures, and demonstrations, and cabinets, and social incitement can do to stimulate the learner, elucidate the subject, and make thorough the philosophy, from experience may judge of the possibility of a scientific profession educated without colleges. It is no personal discredit to earnest young men, who have served three or five years and become first clerks in our best drug stores, that, when with worthy purpose they leave business and enter upon a college course of pharmaceutical chemistry, they are most often found deficient or destitute in the alphabet of the science before them. A very small proportion of American pharmacists have been instructed in the colleges of pharmacy which are established in our larger cities, and which are the only distinctive schools of pharmaceutical science in our country.

It is not alone because adulterations and dilutions abound in the drug trade, that the pharmacist (for the most restricted exercise of his duties) should invariably be an analytical chemist. No other training can equal that of chemical analysis, especially quantitative analysis, in giving that discipline of habitual accuracy and care, needed to make the pharmacist a safe dependance for the physician. There may be difference of opinion as to whether the first years in the shop preferably come before or after college instruction. Certainly the youth already schooled in science, disciplined in accuracy, informed of the materia medica and practiced in its preparations, will profit more richly by experience, will cause his employer less annoyance, and will serve the public more securely during briefer probation, than can be untaxed.

While people and profession lament the imperfection of our technical and professional college systems of education, the fact has been overlooked that pharmacy is practically destitute of any college education. When the time comes that over fifty per cent. of the American pharmacists graduate at insti-