

The *special* knowledge requisite to the apothecary is of four kinds, viz. :

1st. A practical acquaintance with the implements and apparatus of pharmacy, and with the methods of using them in all kinds of manipulation.

2d. The intelligent use of this apparatus in making preparations of the Pharmacopœia, so as to adapt it to the nature of the material treated, which involves not only some acquaintance with the physical laws, but also with the nature and composition of drugs.

3d. The study of the scientific relations of pharmacy as explained in works on Chemistry, Materia Medica, Botany, and Physics, and a thorough acquaintance with the physical appearance and properties of drugs.

4th. That important part of the business involved in getting medicines ready for the sick, as well on the prescription of physicians, as on ordinary demand by consumers, where of maturity of judgment has to be exercised in regard to the correctness of substances required. The construction of the Latin language, and some knowledge of its vocabulary, is absolutely necessary in this department in many countries, though less indispensable here than abroad.

In view of all this knowledge to be gained, it must be apparent that the native ability, and the preliminary education of the boy, have much to do with his success in mastering its details. So important is it that the beginner in pharmacy should be well grounded in the ordinary branches of school education, that in several countries abroad, none but such are admitted to apprenticeship, with some knowledge of the classics superadded. When, therefore, he brings with him some rudimentary knowledge of the sciences as taught in the best common schools, our novice is well equipped, to make progress in the avocation he has chosen, and needs only perseverance to succeed.

The text-books upon which the beginner has mainly to depend, are the United States Pharmacopœia, the United States Dispensatory, and some one or more works on chemistry and pharmacy, with a Latin dictionary, and when possible Webster's dictionary. One of the first lessons is to get a practical acquaintance with the labels in the store, in connection with the substances labelled; this is the groundwork of his study of the business, and is essential to progress in other directions. The habit of abbreviating labels on shop furniture and in prescriptions, adds much to the trouble of the novice in learning them, and it has sometimes happened that he has never thoroughly acquired the terminations of the words so as to use them with facility. A good plan is to commence with a shelf of bottles or a row of drawers at a time, and by the aid of the official list of the Pharmacopœia and the Index of the Dispensatory, to copy the