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Imperial Reciprocity.

Step by step the Mother Country and her colonies are drawing together. Unity of interest in everything pertaining to the principles which actuate the Anglo-Saxon race in making its influence felt in the world seems to be the welding power; but, be it what it may, Imperial history is being made at a rapid rate in these troublous days.

The *Chemist and Druggist*, in its leading editorial in a recent issue discussed the subject of Pharmaceutical Reciprocity along the lines which prevail in the medical profession. The British Medical Council has, and exercises, the power to register as licensed practitioners those who have obtained their qualifications in British dependencies or foreign countries wherein the qualifications of the United Kingdom are accepted in lieu of their own.

This provision is shown to be of decided advantage to the British society, as hundreds of English medical graduates have been accepted in various parts of the Empire, while comparatively few colonial graduates have reversed the conditions.

The British Pharmaceutical Society has apparently been averse to lending its influence to promote similar conditions in pharmacy, as each time it has been approached it has sheltered itself under the plea that the Pharmacy Act did not give it the power to do so.

The Irish Pharmaceutical Society, on the other hand, appears to be more amenable to suggestions along that line, as they have recently granted a conference to the president of the Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales—a conference out of which we hope enough reciprocal good-will and recognition will arise to augment the Imperial idea of community of interests, though why the Irish should outstep the English in the race for Imperial unity and reciprocity is rather

more than a colonial can well understand.

The advocative spirit shown by the *Chemist and Druggist*, which is undoubtedly in close touch with the best elements in pharmacy in the Mother Country, gives hope that the future has something in store for pharmacy in which every druggist who owes allegiance to the British flag can have an interest. "Imperialism to the front," does not imply the creation of conditions beneficial alone to the British born, but to every dependent son who aspires to form an interested unit of the foremost nation of the earth.

Hours of Business.

The long hours of the retail drug business is its most objectionable feature. It is doubtful if any other pursuit of a commercial character would prove equally agreeable if the hours of conducting it were equal. The three or four hours at the end of each day are more wearisome to the tired attendant than the whole of the balance of the day. They are the hours which sap not merely the physical energy but the mental equanimity as well. There is no good reason why excessively long hours should prevail in the drug business. In country towns and villages doctors do not, as a rule, establish definite office hours, and, in consequence, the filling of physicians' prescriptions after 8 p.m. would not warrant the keeping open shop which so generally prevails.

In large cities, however, the majority of medical practitioners hold their consultations between 7 and 9 p.m., and from one half to one hour after the latter hour is necessary to enable late patients to get their prescriptions filled. Beyond the actual necessities of the case the druggist is certainly unwise to go. He has a right to conduct his business both in the interests of his health and his purse, the preservation of the first being as essential as the consideration of the