

daily ceasing to be the mere vendor of his drugs; by recognizing the necessity of thoroughly understanding the nature and properties of remedial agents, he is working out the ethics of his trade. On this topic, Mr. Howden remarks: "The maintenance of the public health requires the services of three separate offices. 1st, The sanitary office, which enforces the observation of natural laws. 2nd, The physician's office, which investigates the nature of disease, and studies the method of subduing it. 3rd, The Pharmaceutical office, which consists in the skilful selection and preparation of remedies, and their direct application; according to the physician's method. By virtue therefore of his own position, and his mutual relation with at least this second health officer, the Pharmacist cannot worthily discharge his duty, unless by deliberate cultivation, he has made himself the fit companion and seconder of the physician."

It has been stated, that, the medical profession look with a jealous eye on the intellectual advance of the modern pharmacist; but I think this is contrary to fact. Why a professional man should trouble because his directions are likely to be understood and properly carried out, is adverse to all logic. The one least likely to interfere with him in a professional career, is the man who knows most of the varied action and the strength of drugs, and the therapeutic value of remedial agents; it was this view that caused the action taken by a few leading members of the profession, which has resulted in the formation of the Pharmaceutical Society. To establish confidence, a mutual understanding must exist; and, should the Pharmacist fail to be the helper, and fit companion of the physician, he has not rightly understood either the dignity of its calling or its moral responsibility. The true Pharmacist will always be the helper, for it is his to know the mechanism of the healing art; to develop new remedial agencies; to enter upon untried regions of experiment; to utilize the dreams of theory, and to bid science wait on the wants of daily life. In all these things the true physician will gladly be instructed; neither will he refuse advice, nor withhold his friendship from one who, though working in a humble sphere, is yet able to enlarge the basis, as well as guide the exercise of professional skill. In this way an understanding grows up, founded on personal advantage, deepened by common sympathy, and cemented by mutual respect. I think the proper course has been followed by our parent society, in opposing all interference on the part of chemists with offices for which they have no qualification; in other words, to draw the distinction between *prescribing* and *dispensing* medicines; and our Society will

do well in this respect to imitate their example. I am far from believing, that any definite line of demarcation can be drawn between the medical sciences or the practices founded upon them; surgery, medicine, and pharmacy, are as much an example of continuity, as the development of species or the co-relation of the physical forces; but I do urge that the offices pertaining to each department should, in common fairness, if from no better reason, be left to those who have special qualifications for their fulfilment.

I trust, I am distinctly understood, that by this, I do not annul or advert on the occasional recommendation by chemists of simple remedies in cases of emergency, or for those little ills of daily life, commonly regarded as too trivial for anything beyond homely treatment. This is not what medical men complain of. What is deprecated, is a deliberate trespassing in a province distinct from our own—the interception of practice rightly pertaining to the qualified prescriber. We each have a duty in this matter, and my conviction is, that the line of duty coincides with that of our own interest. It may be urged by some, in defense, that their legitimate calling is injured by so many medical practitioners dispensing their own medicine. While this, no doubt, is a grievance, it is no defense. In a large number of instances, it would be impossible for a medical man to practice without dispensing also, and in many cases, in which we think a separation of the two functions would be easy, we must make large allowances for a custom, strictly legal, which is often followed out of deference to the convenience of the public, even in opposition to the tastes of the practitioner. The relations between medicine proper and pharmacy have been till now so ill-defined, that much forbearance is needed on all sides. While things are settling into their proper order, medical practitioners, from time immemorial, have been accustomed to dispense, indeed, time was when they alone were properly qualified for the purpose; and, for the state of things we desire, we must rely on the change that is gradually taking place in medical education, and which concerns itself less and less with pharmacy and Materia Medica. On the other hand, we may fairly claim from the medical profession equal consideration, since we, like themselves, are but servants of the public, whose ideas of right and wrong, in respect to medical advice can only be reformed by a sort of educational process. Most of all it is for us to show, that practice in those branches of medical science to which we are specially devoted, may safely be left in our hands, and in the mutual confidence thus established. The ground for jealousy will disappear, and we shall enlist the cordial co-operation of all the fraternity. But in

the attainment of this end I hold to the opinion, that a man should cultivate a love for the business of his choice: its exercise should be to him a source of pleasure, and its various occupations should contribute to his happiness—in other words, he should put his heart into the handle of the trowel. With some men this is natural. Thrice happy is their lot; others must acquire the gift—for the heavy discontented spirit is the most sapping of all malignant influences. The love of business in our own case involves the love of study, and this is the strictly professional part of our character. On this subject, Mr. Ince remarks: "Of that study which concerns our own immediate necessities, such as the laws of chemistry, the knowledge of plants, and the range of Materia Medica, I say nothing, as the subject is so frequently brought before you that I have taken it for granted. I confess I have a strong bearing to that class of mind which goes beyond this, and loves literature and learning for their own sakes. Nothing (he continues) in my own career has more brightened toil, and lessened the irksomeness of manual labor, than the recollection of a classical education." But if, unfortunately, this is not our case, may we not render it possible for our successors, through the judicious management of our institution. With these remarks, I consign the subject to the care of the Committee.

Mining.

ASSAYING FOR AMATEURS.

BY THE EDITOR.

CHAPTER IV.

Wet Process for Gold—Another Method.

Having made a judicious selection of the specimens for assay, so as to represent, as nearly as possible, the general character of the rock from which they were taken—the chippings must be powdered together in an iron mortar, until as fine as ordinary flour. In order to insure uniformity, the powder must be passed through fine muslin, and the coarser particles again subjected to pulverization and sifting until all has passed through; a suitable portion for assay must now be weighed with accuracy. The quantity depends on the richness of the rock; for ores, containing a large amount of metal, ten or fifteen grains will be sufficient, but for comparatively poor ores—as those of our Canadian gold fields, and which usually contain less than one part in thirty-two thousand, it will be necessary to take about two ounces, as the amount of gold contained in a less weight might be unappreciable. It is always proper to make assays in duplicate;