

Canadian Druggist

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Giving Copies of Prescriptions.

The question as to who is the rightful owner of the prescription—the physician, the druggist, or the patient—is no nearer a definite general conclusion to-day than it was fifty years ago. The practice of giving the prescription to the patient by the physician has induced the patient to demand its return from the druggist, and, regardless of the abuse to which the original is frequently put, both it and copies of it are frequently given not only by the patient for whom it was prescribed, but to their friends and acquaintances as well.

Strictly speaking, the prescription is an order for simple or compound drugs, and its fulfilment terminates the right of the patient to further consideration upon it. Unless the physician marks upon it, "To be repeated if desired," it should not again be filled without his advice, nor should he be in any sense responsible for its use and abuse afterwards. The patient does not pay his fee for the written prescription, but for the privilege of having the benefit to be derived from the skill of the prescriber. In certain cases the physician may desire his patient to continue prescribed treatment for a considerable length of time; but, even should he do so, his primary prescription should not become a definite possession of the patient, to be used by him at will. The patient does not usually know enough about the ingredients prescribed to judge of the times or conditions where its use might be desirable. He may not know that drugs possessing cumulative and harmful influences are contained in a prescription which he is having his friends use for afflictions which he imagines are similar to those he had. When physicians have a sufficiently large practice to enable them to keep a dispenser, no thought is entertained by their patient, that they are entitled to the prescription which the dispenser puts up for them. In

fact, physicians frequently dispense their own medicine because of the abuse to which their prescriptions are subjected. The druggist passively permits the abuse through force of habit and for gain, and the patient through ignorance and a desire to evade the payment of an additional consulting fee. The whole system is wrong. Specific prescriptions should not be turned into general recipes either by desire of the patient or by consent of the dispenser and until the druggist shall adopt such a course as will enable the prescriber to carry to an intelligent conclusion the course of treatment which he may map out for his patient, we shall feel privileged to justify a practice now becoming quite common—that of dispensing their own prescriptions.

Business Opportunities.

The best men are not those who have waited for chances, but who have taken them, besieged the chance, conquered the chance; and made chance the servitor. The lack of opportunity is ever the excuse of a weak, vacillating mind. Every life is full of opportunities. Every business transaction is an opportunity—an opportunity to be polite—an opportunity to be manly—an opportunity to be honest—an opportunity to make friends. Every proof of confidence in you is a great opportunity. Existence is the privilege of effort, and when that privilege is met like a man, opportunities to succeed along the line of your aptitude will come faster than you can see them.

Thousands of men go to business every day, and can be counted on as certainly as the rising of the sun, who are mere automatons wound up to go a certain number of hours each day. They accomplish nothing, because they do not bring to their aid the dormant powers of their being. When the purpose is persevered in diligently and kept constantly in view, so that no distractions or side issues are