

use them to practise medicine in the ordinary sense of the term, but the same law applies to the formulæ in our ordinary text-books.

As a matter of fact, there should be no disagreements between doctors and druggists. It is their interest to work together, but in such a city as Toronto we think the druggists, considering the profits they derive directly through the good-will of the profession, do not as a rule, treat the doctors fairly. We may take occasion to speak on some points connected with this question in the future, but at present we wish to consider whether a prescription should be repeated without a written order from the prescriber. Many of our druggists are in the habit of repeating such prescriptions when the empty bottles are returned without asking any questions. In the interests of both doctors and patients such a custom is wrong, as a mixture may be repeated without the knowledge of the doctor at a time when it will do positive injury.

In justice to all parties, it is only fair to say that physicians are at least as much to blame for this custom as either the patients or druggists. Doctors are too frequently in the habit of simply directing the medicine to be renewed, without a written order. This is a careless style of prescribing, which is inexcusable. It is a simple matter, takes but little time to write a "repeat," and it should always be done when such repetition is wanted. If such a rule were universally observed we would be in a better position to talk plainly about some of the shortcomings of the druggists.

THE ONTARIO MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

The Committee who have had in hand the work of organizing this Association, have about completed their task. We are pleased to announce that the library will be open on and after November 1st, during certain hours every day, Sundays excepted, viz.: from 10 to 11 in the morning, 2 to 6 in the afternoon, and 7.30 to 9.30 in the evening. A librarian has been appointed, who will have charge of books and journals, and wait on members and visitors. There are now about one thousand volumes, and five thousand journals. A canvass

will shortly be made for contributions of books or journals from practitioners. The library, as our readers will remember, is in a room kindly given for the purpose by the Ontario Medical Council in their new building, on the corner of Bay and Richmond Streets. Great credit is due to the Committee who have worked so assiduously and successfully in this important undertaking.

A directory for nurses will be established in connection with the library, which will be looked after by the librarian, and it is hoped that the fees from this source will partly or wholly pay the salary of this officer. It will be remembered that an attempt was made in Toronto some time ago to popularize such an undertaking, but it proved a failure. We want something of the kind very much, and hope this new directory will be a success.

DIDACTIC LECTURES.

The efforts of the Ontario Medical Council to make the examinations as practical as possible are very commendable. We hope they will take the question of the curriculum into consideration at their next meeting. It is much to the credit of our medical colleges that the amount of practical instruction given in the laboratories, dissecting rooms and hospitals has been greatly increased in recent years. This is in accordance with the spirit of the times. It unfortunately happens, however, that the old rule of requiring two courses of one hundred didactic lectures in nearly all subjects, is still adhered to. The consequence is that the clinical teachers in the hospital find it a difficult matter to get the clerks and dressers to do their work as thoroughly and systematically as they should. In the Toronto General Hospital the nurses do a large portion of the work which should be done by the surgical dressers. What the dressers lose by such a system is difficult to estimate, and really needs not to be discussed, as there can scarcely be any difference of opinion in the matter. Why are they subjected to any such irreparable loss? Because so much of their time is spent in attending didactic lectures.

A change is urgently needed. Why should any object? We know of no reason excepting