

cal cabinet would not add interest to the secretary's office. Finally I proposed a radical step—the publication of a paper monthly devoted to B.C. news as well as Pharmaceutical matters. What result, if any, has accrued from these efforts of mine I have yet to learn. It is not my purpose to-night to trespass upon your very valuable time by advancing pet theories. It has occurred to me that if you will excuse the presumption I will address a few words to the absentees—those of our association who will fill the president's and secretary's chair, and who in their turn will meet as a Board of dreadful Examiners and find out just what the aspirant to Pharmaceutical honors does not know. I mean the apprentice. I have great respect for the apprentice. I was a drug apprentice myself once (years ago), we have all passed through the ordeal, and I feel that if any one more than another merits the sympathy and respect of his fellow men it is the drug apprentice—who, despite the warnings of matured pill pounders, bravely takes up the relief of suffering humanity and grinds his weary life out in the self-sacrificing mortar of duty, infusing the principles of sobriety and integrity into his life until he finally graduates with a full measure of honor, and hands down his spatula, tinctured with the gore of many struggles, to his no less zealous successor. Yes, the apprentice merits our respect. He has much to learn, many worries to face and overcome and hours of sleep to forego.

In a comparatively new country as is British Columbia the apprentice to the drug business has perhaps not as many facilities for acquiring the many and varied lines of knowledge required of him by the long suffering public. I say public because I want the apprentice to recognize the fact that his studies are directed towards one grand end—acquiring knowledge in order to do business with the public as a druggist; not acquiring knowledge, and as little as possible, to pass muster at a Board of Examiners. It is a necessary evil this Examining Board and the only present means we have of officially testing a candidate's ability, but it is far from satisfactory as we all know. The qualifying for a life's work, as is a druggist's, is by no means of easy accomplishment. It is not the accumulation of a mass of facts jumbled together and bolted without mental mastication. It is the careful acquirement of knowledge gathered from many sources—it may be the daily routine of the store, as a custo-

mer enquires the nature of a certain drug, with which you are supposed to be familiar the dose, and many other apparently trivial matters which are pieces of the great fund of information which goes to make up a druggist's education.

The importance of little things should be early recognized. The druggist's life is necessarily a dealing in little things, and he must early realize that thoroughness in the little things makes success in greater matters possible. The dusting of a store in itself is as important as the dispensing of a prescription in after years, in that it helps to make clean and thorough. The store is judged often by the public by its cleanliness, and a good impression once made is worth money as an advertisement. The apprentice then should start at the bottom. He should know all about sweeping out, washing mortars and graduate-, and should be able to give pointers on what to use to take out those many stains we all meet with. As he gradually familiarizes himself with the drugs and chemicals he constantly handles, he advances to compounding. He has already become acquainted with the tools in the sink, now he advances to dirty the graduates for another to wash. But he must have had his eyes and ears wide open all the time. If he is truly anxious to learn, something will happen every day to arouse his curiosity and thirst for knowledge. It is then while the matter is fresh that he should make the note to be looked up in his evening reading. By so doing his reading and daily work become inseparable. Now, as to reading. Make a practice of reading every day. Let nothing interfere with your reading. One day missed means possibly others in its wake, for we all know a day is seldom made up.

There are so many subjects that it is no wonder that many an apprentice has gasped at the array. But, taken systematically, it is surprising how one can easily break down their backs and look for more. A good knowledge of mathematics is essential and in facts more stress should be placed upon this by the Examining Board for the Preliminary. If the apprentice has not, he must certainly get an elementary knowledge of physics, botany, and chemistry. I know of a series of Science Primers by Huxley and Roscoe which I can for experience recommend. They are Roscoe's Chemistry, Balfour Stewart's Physics, and Sir J. D. Hooker's Botany, all 1s. books issued by Macmillan & Co.,

London, England. Start with the physics and by the time that it is mastered chemistry will follow naturally on, then to botany. After mastering these the heavier marks are within reach, Bentley's Botany and Atfield's Chemistry are light reading and what better way of passing a happy hour than with Remington and his Pharmacy? In reading don't attempt too much, and understand what is read. It is a good plan to always have a good dictionary at one's elbow, which don't be ashamed to use. I am a strong advocate of transcribing. I once copied the whole of Luff's Introduction to Chemistry and I am sure equation writing came easier to me than had I merely read the book through. These above mentioned works all lead up to the clearer understanding of Squire's Companion to the British Pharmacopoeia, a copy of which should be in every student's possession. It, with the U. S. Dispensatory, will help to smooth over many apparently unsurmountable difficulties.

It is a good plan to start, early in studying, a chemical cabinet. Chemicals cost very little and with a little self-sacrifice he can get a supply of test tubes, test stands, beakers, funnels, flasks, retorts, blow wipers, etc., etc. Then, with the aid of these, chemistry can be studied intelligently (as it should only be studied). The dry details of the text book should always be supplemented by experiments and practical work, each step being watched by himself and nothing taken for granted. Botany—the bugbear of every student, becomes a pleasure if studied where it should be—in the fields. What pleasanter means of spending the few hours off duty during the spring and summer afternoons or evenings, than in roaming in search of specimens, and these, with the aid of a good microscope, will help out many a winter's night, as he mounts, dissects, and classifies which can be readily done with a good book on botany at his elbow. Botany which was left till last and just skimmed, becomes a pleasurable series of steps to the information of which he had no idea. The average student or apprentice is constantly asking the question, "How much of this, that or the other shall I study?" A very proper question certainly because there is not the slightest doubt that a quantity of useless facts are often acquired which have no bearing at all upon the after life of the druggist. The idea the student should keep before him is to understand what he reads, and