

A lady visiting at K. three miles from the town of C. called in the doctor to see her child. The physician made the examination, and returning next day he provided a 2 oz. box of ointment and charged her altogether the sum of 50 cents. There are two drug stores in the town of C. Now, in the first case, the gentleman expected to pay \$1.00 for the physician's advice and have his prescription dispensed by the pharmacist. In the second case, the lady expected to pay at least \$1.00 and was prepared to send to C. for her medicine and pay the pharmacist for it.

I cite these cases to show how apt the physician is to get into the habit of "giving his medicine free," for in both cases the patients were strangers to the place, and therefore the old argument could not apply, viz., that the physician has to provide medicine because the patients are often too poor to go to the drug store and purchase what is ordered. Now usually the physician in the country should get as much for his experience and brain work as his brother in the cities or larger towns, or we shall say surely he should get a reasonable fee without having to provide the remedies out of his own pocket.

Why should so many physicians run a private benevolent dispensary? Does the blame not often lie with themselves? Does it not *always* lie with themselves *if there is a pharmacist in the vicinity*? Why should he charge *less* than others, and make his patients the present of a drug stock every year of his life? I believe that the patient has a higher regard and esteem for the physician when he has to pay that physician for his skill and knowledge and is allowed to purchase his own medicine from the pharmacist.

I believe that if the physicians of any town or district in this province (where the pharmacist has located) were to agree to unite in the endeavor to do away with the old system of dispensing their own prescriptions, that they could do so without losing any practice, but with the result of saving thousands of dollars annually and I also believe that they would thereby raise the standard of their profession in the estimation of the people.

Why cannot the pharmacist, by interviewing the physicians in his town and using the foregoing and other perhaps better arguments, assist in bringing about this desirable change? But now a word to the pharmacist!

It is our duty to have a neat, clean, orderly dispensing department. No matter how small the volume of business, there is no excuse for slovenly or disorder. All our bottles should be well corked and labelled distinctly, and if we cannot afford recess-labelled glass stoppered ware, we can at least have uniformity in shape and sizes of our dispensing bottles. Let us have a reliable pair of dispensing scales and a good supply of aluminum weights. In short let the dispensing department be our first and chief pride.

We should look sharply after our stock and destroy anything deteriorated by age. We should only keep drugs we know to be pure, always bearing in mind that the lives of the people depend on us as well as on the physician.

Never let prices influence us where quality is concerned, when purchasing, and strive to have on our shelves the products of only such manufacturers as we know to be reliable. We must remember that we hold in our hands to a certain extent the reputation of the physician, and the best way to assist him is to provide only the best.

Keep up with the times, and be well informed on new remedies, procuring the same expeditiously when required. Try, as much as it can be afforded to do so, to anticipate the wants of the physician

in this respect. Have a drug *when* it is called for.

I know some of the cleverest physicians in Nova Scotia who have been helped by suggestions from the pharmacist as to what remedies are of use in certain diseases. They forget perhaps for the moment just what they would like to prescribe and will thank you for your suggestions if you show that you are capable and thoughtful about these matters.

Discourage with all your might that evil "Counter prescribing" and advise your customers to consult the physician, knowing that he will send the patient to you again to have the prescription dispensed. Here you do a good turn to both physician and patient.

This paper is doubtless very incomplete and many other points will arise in the minds of you gentlemen, but if it stimulates us all to do what we can to raise our profession in the esteem of the physician and the public generally, then its object is not in vain.

Let us strive to make ourselves of greater use to the physician, cultivate a more friendly feeling, conduct our business on the highest possible lines, and in return we may gain the appreciation of the physicians and bring about that glorious millenium for the pharmacist—"When physicians prescribe but dispense no more."

British Columbia Pharmaceutical Association

NINTH ANNUAL MEETING HELD AT NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C.

The Association convened in the Guichon Hotel, in New Westminster, at 8 o'clock, those present being President, J. R. Seymour; Vice President, J. Cochrane; Councillors, T. E. Atkins, D. S. Curtis, and E. H. Hiscocks and Messrs. H. McDowell, H. Ryall, T. J. Armstrong, H. H. Watson, J. M. Atkins, T. A. Muir, R. G. Wood, J. N. Henderson and J. K. Sutherland.

The minutes of the last annual meeting were read and adopted.

The secretary then read
THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL,
1898-9.

To the Members of the British Columbia
Pharmaceutical Association.

GENTLEMEN:

At the close of another year your Council begs to report as follows:

The first meeting was held immediately after the last annual meeting, the following officers being elected: J. R. Seymour, President; J. Cochrane, Vice-President; and J. K. Sutherland, Secretary-Treasurer. After passing outstanding accounts, there being no other business, the council adjourned.

The next meeting was held in Victoria, on December 8th, all the members being present.

The minutes of the June meeting were read and adopted.

T. J. Armstrong's application for registration, on the ground of his having been in business prior to the passing of the B.C. Pharmacy Act, having been referred to our solicitors by the late council and their opinion being that he is entitled to registration, the same was granted, and his name placed on the register.