

A few of these new drugs were definitely appropriated from the laboratories of both French and English chemists, the name given by the discoverer was changed and a newly coined one was patented and the medical profession paid the piper. You will remember that in 1894 hexamethylene-tetramine was synthetically made and its therapeutic value as an antiseptic announced by M. Albert Robin at the Academy of Medicine in Paris, under the name of formine. About ten years later, under the German name of urotropine, with German patents, the same drug was introduced to the profession and was received without questioning by English, French, and American physicians, and the price demanded was paid; five times the price for which it could be made in an ordinary chemical laboratory.

This is but one example out of many. How was it accomplished? The German houses bought up, or ruined by underselling, all the chemical industries in France and Great Britain that either opposed them or stood in the way of their schemes. For the few years immediately preceding the war this synthetic drug business represented in Germany a modern trust in its most vicious manifestations. There were large chemical factories thriving on the past bounties given by a fostering government, large hospitals in which so-called clinical experiments could be made, high professors with sounding titles who did not hesitate to stoop to give certificates, and well-paid medical journals which willingly published reports, long and many, calling attention to every new product.

The whole world still honors the perseverance and careful laboratory methods of Ehrlich in his research for a *therapia magna sterilisans* for syphilis. His 606 accomplished almost all, but yet not all that he claimed for it. It is far otherwise with many of the recent synthetic products which until the outbreak of the war were so sedulously brought to the notice of our profession in Canada and elsewhere. A short trial has shown that most of them are of little value and their introduction can only be regarded as a prostitution of laboratories, hospitals, and professors to commercial ends. Everywhere when science ceases to pursue truth for its own sake and becomes the poorly paid slave of commerce deterioration is, I fear, inevitable.

As I have mentioned, a number of these new synthetic drugs proved themselves of very definite value and replaced almost entirely many of our older drugs and their galenical preparations. Now, when our supply is cut short, we find ourselves in difficulty and appreciate how completely Germany in the chemical trade had