

remedies, because the trouble of writing out a long formula is of some consequence to a busy man, but the days of polypharmacy are passing away and many of the prescriptions for special preparations call for one article only. A lazy prescriber is a good subject for the medical drummer, but the latter has a better friend in the ignorant one, who is content to let the manufacturer of pharmaceutical specialties do his prescribing for him. This class of men, with one stroke of the pen, write a prescription, copying the directions from the printed circulars with which they are so abundantly supplied. Medical men generally are fully aware that this class of prescribing is injurious to the druggist, whose profit on such prescriptions is no larger than the dry goods man's profit on dress goods, notwithstanding the responsibility the druggist has to bear, arising from the powerful nature of some of these medicines.

I do not wish to be understood as objecting to a physician's specifying the name of the maker of a few articles that are of superior quality to those usually made by good pharmacists, nor to such as by their greater attractiveness in appearance, taste, etc., make them more acceptable to the patient. It is the province of the pharmacist to aid the physician to overcome the repugnance many persons have to nauseous doses and nasty local applications by preparing medicaments so as to be as agreeable as possible, without sacrifice of effectiveness. I am objecting to secret or semi-secret preparations with copyrighted names, and to the thousand and one ready-made elixirs, syrups, solutions, etc., most of which are no better than those made by any good pharmacist. Physicians are not generally aware of the injury they do themselves by sending out such prescriptions. Any druggist who will be candid enough to admit the whole truth will bear me witness that a large portion of their more intelligent customers soon find out that their prescriptions in such cases call for a ready-made compound, the name of which they find some means of ascertaining. Should the medi-

cine prove beneficial, they not only take it themselves on future occasions when similarly affected, but recommend it to their friends. Soon these specialties, which are practically patent medicines, secure a large sale, chiefly through the influence of physicians who were the first to introduce them favorably to the public. When this has been accomplished, the proprietors usually cease catering for the patronage of physicians exclusively, and advertise their wares indiscriminately like any other quack medicines. Thus, in one way or another, such preparations as Scott's Emulsion, Fellows' Syrup, Bromo-caffeine, Listerine, Bromidia and many other compounds, some of them harmless and some dangerous, have passed out of the hands of physicians and are bought by persons who use them without medical advice. These are not poor people, but mostly of the well-to-do class, who are able to pay the doctor's bill, and who, when sick, do not think of asking a druggist for advice.

Now, where is the necessity for a physician prescribing such compounds? Does he not know enough of *materia medica* and therapeutics, of the properties and doses of medicines to select his own remedies? Of what avail is all his instruction in these branches of medical education if, when he engages in practice, he lets the patent medicine manufacturer or the manufacturing pharmacist do his prescribing for him? And of what use to the pharmacist is his education in *materia medica*, chemistry and pharmacy if he has nothing to do when putting up a prescription but to count out a few ready-made pills or hand out a bottle of ready-made elixir.

The professions of medicine and pharmacy are both suffering from the inroads that are being made upon them. The young practitioner is shut out from practising among the poor, by dispensaries and clinics that are now doctoring millions of patients every year, who have no right to claim service of this kind. He cannot get practice among the rich because he is unknown; the