

ing the one, two, or three, hours the clerk is at work on a doctor's prescription he serves many swains and their sweet-hearts with ice cream sodas, washes the tumblers and spoons, selects the best brands of cigars for young and old sports, sells brushes, nursing bottles; in short everything pertaining to the needs, fads, or fancies of the nursery, bath or lady's boudoir.

Is not the modern drug store conducted on as purely commercial lines as are our dry good stores and groceries? The chief attraction in summer is the sissing soda-water fountain, and the windows and show cases are all dressed so as to attract trade. Is not the commercial spirit the most dominant and rampant factor in pharmacy and therapeutics?

REMEDIAL MEASURES.

Pooh, pooh, this discussion as we may, or ostrich-like try to hide our heads in the sands of our ignorance, indifference, or indolence, the unpleasant fact still remains, viz., that materia medica, pharmacy and therapeutics, as compared with the other branches of medicine, are in a morbid state. Our knowledge of these is lamentably defective, our literature rankly unscientific, and our practice empirical and erratic to the last degree.

The first in order of remedial measures is a radical change in the curricula of our medical colleges. The most competent teachers should be provided, and these should be enthusiasts. We have altogether too much nihilism in therapeutics. Time and facilities for teaching these subjects profitably and intelligently should be provided. The importance and value of a thorough knowledge of materia medica and therapeutics should be indelibly impressed on the mind of every medical student. The whole realm of animate and inanimate nature is a field for research work in these branches. How much more profitable this kind of work would be to most of our students, than gazing down on an operating table, when as a rule they can only see the back of the surgeon as he works away in a small, dark cavity? Most physicians write at least one hundred prescriptions for each operation they perform. Therapeutics should be taught not only rationally and practically but in minute detail. The mere enumeration of principles is not sufficient. A suitable selection of drugs should be made and the properties of these thoroughly learned, in order that the student might know how to prescribe them so as to get their full medicinal effects.

The old delusion, that the more vile and rank a mixture looked, and tasted, the more virtue there was in it has long passed away. Patients now demand their medicine in an attractive and palatable form, and it is because we have not acquired the art of prescribing such mix-