

apart of medicine and pharmacy cannot raise any valid objection to a physician having in his office or in his residence a few remedies for emergencies. Other cases will suggest themselves to the minds of those present where physicians may advantageously dispense remedies for temporary use. But these exceptions to the general rule do not constitute an argument for the abrogation of the rule itself.

The drift of the times in all professions and businesses is towards specialism. Particularly is this the case in the practice of medicine, in which we have almost every organ of the body a subject of special study, and every class of diseases treated by specialists. If the study of medicine is so large, so vast, so difficult, so comprehensive, that no man can accomplish it at all, why should the physician seek to add to his already overburdened curriculum a knowledge of pharmacy?

The sciences upon which pharmacy is dependent are advancing with strides no less marked than those of medicine. Pharmaceutical manipulations and processes are continually being improved, and these improvements are largely dependent on a better knowledge of organic chemistry and of the constitution of drugs. Busy pharmacists even find it difficult to keep pace with the times both in these branches of knowledge and in the improved methods of administration; how, then, shall a physician, already overburdened with his practice, keep himself up in these studies?

Strictly speaking, then, physicians are the only ones who should prescribe. Any deviation from this rule, such as I have hinted at, would only apply to trivial, common, every-day experiences, and the pharmacist should always use his influence as far as he can, not only to avoid prescribing himself, but to dissuade his customers from doing the same. He should seek to check the pernicious habit many persons have of repeating their own prescriptions *ad infinitum*, and particularly of allowing these same prescriptions to be repeated for the benefit of other peo-

ple, "friends of the family," and so on. A great injury is often done to physicians by this practice, and it must be admitted that where the medicine is not of a dangerous character, such as preparations of cocaine, morphine, chloral, etc., druggists are not as careful to prevent repetition as they ought to be in justice to the doctors. Only by a more friendly relation between them can this habit be checked.

But while holding that physicians should do the prescribing and pharmacists the dispensing, I would call your attention to the fact that much of the prescription-making and compounding is done by a class of persons who are enemies of both physicians and pharmacists. I refer to the large army, which is daily increasing, of proprietors of pharmaceutical specialties. This class of persons are not owners of corner drug stores or physicians in legitimate practice, but wealthy corporations and private individuals who trade upon the weakness of humanity. Able to command unlimited capital, they hire physicians to bring other doctors within range. Their immense wealth and patronage enables them to subsidize medical journals, if indeed they do not own them outright, and by the power of money and plausible presentations and representations enlist a large portion of the medical fraternity in their service. Praying upon the ignorance of some, the indolence or recklessness of others, they have succeeded in bringing the practice of medicine to such a pass that the modern druggist's prescription file is a curiosity, owing to the large percentage of orders for special preparations, many of them of unknown composition, most of them made by unknown processes. If these preparations were any better than those made by the intelligent pharmacist, surpassing the latter either in purity or elegance, there would be some reason why physicians should so commonly prescribe them; but as a class the articles I refer to are in no way superior to similar preparations made by reputable pharmacists. There is some slight excuse for their prescribing by name certain polypharmic