

of friendship with the then only contributing physician.

If the dose is not improper or the medication manifestly injurious, it is not the pharmacist's province to direct the treatment. If he attempts to do so, the physician has very good cause for complaint. If the dose or medication is manifestly improper or even doubtful, it is his duty to communicate with the author of the prescription. Even druggists have been known to make very serious mistakes, and, consequently, cannot afford to over severely censure the physician. There should be that cordial relationship existing between physicians and pharmacists that an error by one should be promptly and zealously met by the other. The anxieties, cares, responsibilities, and annoyances in each of these professions are sufficient to explain the occurrence of mistakes, and it is indeed, surprising there are not more of them. The pharmacist's position enables him to serve in the capacity of a check on the accuracy and safety of the physician's prescription. Naturally, his care and consideration are, as rule, reciprocated at every opportunity by his medical brethren, thus contributing to maintain certain bonds of friendship.

The pharmacist complains bitterly that the physician is unwarrantedly supplanting him by dispensing tablets, etc. There is reason in all things, and in this, as in the question of counter-prescribing by the pharmacist. Promiscuous dispensing by physicians is not only improper, but may even be unsafe. The ordinary physician is not trained nor skilled as a compounder of medicines. The writer has, while in the drug business, had occasion to note the lack of acquaintance, by some physicians, with the differences in physical appearances between such drugs as Dover's powder and morphine, kina and lycopodium, or regarding the use of excipients in making pills, the usual method of filling capsules, or methods in compounding mixtures. How safe and proper can compounding by physicians be?

But there is a certain amount of dispensing by physicians which is not only pro-

per, but in some respects desirable. Homoeopathic physicians, as a rule, write very few prescriptions, consequently the pharmacist is very little benefited by them as a class. Pharmacists depend for prescriptions upon physicians of the other school; consequently, the success or failure of members of that school very materially affects the pharmacist. As the medicines administered by the homeopathic physician usually have a much more agreeable taste than those prescribed by his fellow of the opposite school, and, inasmuch, as at the same fee for a visit the former usually contributes the necessary medicine, and the latter does not, the public are quite frequently influenced by these considerations in selecting a physician. The lesson this would teach is that the pharmacist and his physician should unite in an effort to produce more elegant preparations, present medicines in the most agreeable and convenient forms, and at the least possible expense. In the effort to produce the most satisfactory preparations the physician must depend mainly upon the skill and education of the pharmacist. That is a part of the latter's vocation, and with proper encouragement and co-operation past experiences and observation demonstrate he is capable of brilliant results. The matter of expense in medication is very largely in the physician's hands. If he will avoid prescribing expensive drugs where cheaper ones will do as well, refrain from needless experimentation with chemical curiosities of which he uses but one dose, the rest of the "original package" encumbering the druggist's shelf and depleting his pocket-book, the public will have less reason for complaint about drug bills, and the pharmacist be better off. An additional means, and a very important one, by which he can secure and retain the patronage of the public for himself and the pharmacist, is that of carrying with him and giving out when required some certain kinds of medicine in suitable form: such as a single dose of a cathartic, of an anodyne, or an emetic. Ofttimes it is very desirable to get an immediate ef-