

Burroughs would have lived for many more years but for his restless nature. You could never take up a trade journal without learning he was in South Europe, or in Africa, or Asia, or anywhere—but at home. Always on business, with a keen eye to business, he lived mainly for business, and has paid the penalty. Still he was much respected, and many to-day lament the early decease of a large-hearted man.

Rules for the Guidance of the Dispensing Clerk.

By T. W. RICHARDSON.

Be clean and neat about your person and dress. A patient will not care to take medicine put up by a slovenly person, nor to be waited on by one. Do not be afraid of putting yourself about for the sake of obliging a customer. Have a smile and pleasant word for every one; a little kindness done may not mean much to you, but it may do much for you by securing you the good will of your customer.

In receiving a prescription, tell the customer the length of time it will take to prepare it. Enquire if they will wait or call again. If they will wait, politely request them to be seated, or, if they wish it delivered, have it delivered promptly, for although half an hour may not make much difference, yet the suffering patient may be inclined to complain at any delay.

Before commencing to dispense read the prescription carefully, and, if any explanation regarding it is needed, consult with the doctor, but without the patient's knowledge.

Scrupulousness, accuracy, neatness, and dispatch, as well as a thorough knowledge of his business, constitute the necessary requisites of a good dispenser.

There must be no substitution. Use only the best quality of drugs. You get a best-quality price, and you have a perfect right to furnish best quality goods to your customer. Be accurate, fix your mind on what you are doing, and give it your full attention. Be careful of your fraction of a grain—carelessness cannot be tolerated at all. Remember that the patient's health, and even life, is placed frequently in your care, and that carelessness, therefore, in dispensing amounts almost to criminality. Neatness is a great factor towards success. The majority of people dread taking medicine, and should they receive a bottle with the label on askew, and perhaps smeared with a dirty finger, the neck of the bottle sticky, and the cork in crooked, they would be apt to be disgusted. Despatch is very important, and in order that dispensing may be done quickly it is necessary to have everything handy. Have only on your dispensing shelves such things as are frequently used, and so arranged that the least movement will enable you to reach them.

A good arrangement is to have a deep dispensary, and along the back of the counter, and midway from either end, a

compartment for the scales, with mortars and graduates on either hand.

Underneath the counter have drawers for paper for wrapping prescriptions, already cut, pill boxes, powder papers, pill tiles, pill machines, corks, etc., also compartments for bottles and ointment pots. Have your gas jet and sealing wax at one end of the dispensary, and your water supply as convenient as possible, for we all know what a necessary commodity "aqua pura" is, and how frequently it is brought into requisition in our "noble and beloved" profession.

In dispensing poisonous lotions or liniments, use a poison bottle, and make it a point of honor to affix a shake, lotion, or liniment label, whenever necessary.

Keep your counter clear and clean, and replace everything when through with it. Having prepared the medicine, take the prescription to the desk and date, number, price, and place any note which you may need for reference upon it. Having neatly wrapped and sealed your package, you are ready to hand it to your customer if waiting. If he is not waiting, write on wrapper the name of patient, designation of prescription, number of price, as follows:

John Thomson,

Lotion, 139540—35c.

The Future City Druggist.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—Under the above heading I desire to send you my idea of what the city druggist of the future should be.

The city druggist of the future must be aspiring as to professional reputation. He must be well educated, and possess the Ph.M.B. degree in pharmacy. His professional abilities should be supported by sufficient means to sustain the eminence he should naturally enjoy. His assistants should, if not graduates, be at least matriculants of the university. His stock should be as varied as the wants of his customers, regardless of the profits wasted in maintaining it. He should never give any thought to such low-born institutions as departmental stores, which thrive on commercial rather than professional lines. In his dealings with the public he must impress them with the importance of his profession as a branch of the healing art, and discountenance, publicly at least, collusion with medical men for mutual benefit.

He will, of course, not from necessity, but as an evidence of his obliging nature, continue to afford the public the free use of his telephone, directory, and other mere adjuncts of his calling. Away from the public eye, he will obey patiently any demands made upon him by the medical profession. Being a professional man himself, he must feel it beneath his dignity to charge the doctor for such things as sponges, surgical dressings, etc., which his superior may require, and, even should members of the doctor's family see fit to make trifling demands in the drug sundry line, his sense of professional propriety will deter him from asking or seeking

recompense. Above all things, he must never, in the slightest degree, encroach on the rights of the medical fraternity by compounding remedies for the minor ailments of humanity, and, should his customers seek a refilling of prescriptions without the authority of their medical adviser, it will be his duty firmly, but kindly, to refuse the same. Under no circumstances will he return the original prescription or give a copy, as it might inadvertently be dispensed as a new prescription by a confrère, and thus rob the author of the fee which is properly his due. His duty, at all times, will be to protect the medical profession, as far as lies in his power, from the many forms of plagiaristic empiricism which have proven a bane to it in the past, and, although his pocket may suffer somewhat in doing so, the high sense of dignified justice which should pervade him will be ample reward for his disinterested efforts.

OVERTHELEFT.

Crystallization of Syrups, and the Remedy.

Carles (*Repertoire de Pharmacie*), in an article on the crystallization of syrups, states that it is his habit, as soon as he notes a tendency of a syrup to crystallize, to put it on the water-bath and heat it. The separated sugar is at once taken up, and remains in solution. Occasionally, he says, the crystallization will occur only on the bottom of the vessel, and is due to the fact that the latter is standing on some object colder than the surrounding atmosphere. This is especially the case in winter. All that is necessary in such cases is to reverse the jar or vessel, which, by equalizing the temperature, causes the crystals to be again taken up.—*National Druggist*.

Phosphorus Pills.

Yet another method for dispensing phosphorus in pills is suggested by M. Ledoux, of Liège, who heats anhydrous wool-fat, 4 gm., and phosphorus .6 cg., in a capsule, on a water-bath at a temperature about 45°, until the phosphorus is melted. The mixture is then stirred with a slightly warmed pestle until cool, after which powdered marsh-mallow, g.s. for 120 pills, is added. The finished pills should be rolled in powdered talc and preserved in the same, sheltered from the light.—*Journs. de pharm. de Liège, et d'Anvers. —Pharmaceutical Journal*.

Perfumed Moth Camphor.

Naphthalin-camphor, says the *Druggisten Zeitung*, now so popular as a moth-preventer, is prepared by melting together, on the water-bath, 2400 parts of naphthalin and 780 parts of camphor. The unpleasant, penetrating odor of the product may be masked and rendered even pleasant by adding to the product, while still fluid, 2 parts cumarin, 1 part nerolin, and 53½ parts of mirbane oil.