

Physicians as Pharmacists.

The right which physicians enjoy to engage in the practice of pharmacy is rapidly bringing the Profession of Pharmacy to a very subjective position. All over Canada young medical graduates are slowly but surely taking possession of the openings which drug graduates have specially qualified themselves to fill. The physician cannot be blamed for claiming his privileges, yet he makes a mistake in assuming a business for which he has not qualified. It is almost as great a mistake to attempt to make a pharmacist out of a physician as it would be to make a physician out of a pharmacist. Neither train for the other's position, and, therefore, neither is qualified to fill it. The training of the physician fits him to diagnose diseases and to prescribe and operate for their treatment. The training of the pharmacist fits him to dispense, compound and to judge of the commercial chemical and therapeutic value of the various pharmacopœial products. There is no analogy between the systems of training and not the slightest similarity between the capabilities of the graduating students of the respective professions.

Centuries of experience in all lands brought about a complete separation of the duties of the physician and the pharmacist, and if no other argument be adduced this alone would be sufficient to show that new countries like Canada should not inaugurate and perpetuate a system at variance with the experience of older and more enlightened countries.

Those who have the true welfare of both professions at heart will not have failed to note that the blending of the two is a mistake. We do not desire to reflect in the slightest degree upon the professional capabilities of the medical men who may have assumed the occupation of the pharmacist, but we do most unreservedly state our opinion that if the vocation of each was left to the respective votaries that a purer and better incentive would be given each to do all in his power to raise his profession to a higher plane.

Old-Time Apprenticeship.

The druggist of thirty or forty years ago will recollect that, in his day, drug apprenticeship was a much more serious thing than it is at the present time, particularly

if his indentures were of British origin. When the articles were signed he soon realized that legal control of him had passed from his parents or guardians to a master whom he was bound to serve for the full period stipulated in the contract. The strict letter of the indenture was lived up to, and the obligation of the master to teach, instruct, and cause to be instructed, was as faithfully performed, as was the obligation of the apprentice to serve and obey, demanded. The contract could not be terminated unless by mutual consent or by death of either of the parties. The apprentice had no power to change his position, nor had his master the right to dismiss him, even though he proved himself thoroughly incompetent. All risks were taken when the contract was signed. The apprentice became a member of his master's family, and, as such, was frequently required to perform menial services not connected with the learning of his business, although these he was not legally bound to perform. All his earnings, from whatever source, were his preceptor's property, and he was not entitled to wages unless they had been expressly stipulated for; but, from the family relationship which existed, the master was obliged to provide board, lodging, washing, clothing, medicine, and other necessaries suitable for an apprentice in sickness and in health. Apart from the legal responsibilities, however, the practice became a common one for the master to show his appreciation by presenting his apprentice with an outfit in money, clothes, books, utensils, or any gift suitable to promote his advancement, upon the termination of his apprenticeship period. The service was often severe and irksome, but the results were usually satisfactory, and many an old druggist new looks back to his seven-year apprenticeship period with the hundred pound premium his parents were obliged to pay his preceptor and wishes that apprentices were similarly instructed nowadays.

College of Pharmacy Examinations.

The closing sessional examinations of the Montreal College of Pharmacy were held in the college building, commencing March 28th and ending March 30th, when the following students passed in the various subjects, and are named in order of merit, namely:

Botany—A. J. Bedard, A. E. Baldwin,

A. T. Christie, M. Albert, H. St. George, H. Guerin, G. Richard.

Junior Materia Medica—M. Albert, A. O. Hart, A. E. Baldwin, J. M. McFarlane, L. G. Ryan, W. J. Shea, J. A. Dearden.

Senior Materia Medica—Miss A. A. Prevost, H. Guerin, G. Richard, J. B. Bisailon.

Junior Chemistry—E. Vadboncœur, Joseph Valois.

Senior Chemistry—M. Albert, A. E. Baldwin, A. J. Bedard, F. J. Lemaistre, A. T. Christie.

The above results, added to those obtained at the December sessional examination, give the combined final results, the student standing, in order of merit as named below:

Botany—A. J. Bedard (prize), A. E. Baldwin, A. T. Christie, H. Guerin, H. St. George, G. Richard, M. Albert, A. O. Hart.

Junior Materia Medica—M. Albert (prize), A. O. Hart, J. M. McFarlane, A. E. Baldwin, L. G. Ryan, W. J. Shea, J. A. Dearden, D. G. Scott, Bernard Fox.

Senior Materia Medica—H. Guerin (prize), Miss A. A. Prevost, G. Richard, J. B. Bisailon.

Junior Chemistry—Joseph Valois (prize), E. Vadboncœur.

Senior Chemistry—A. J. Bedard (prize), A. E. Baldwin, M. Albert, A. T. Christie, F. J. Lemaistre.

Pharmacy Examinations.

The preliminary board of examiners of the Pharmaceutical Association of the Province of Quebec held their quarterly examination in Montreal and Quebec on Thursday, April 6th, when thirty-five candidates entered their names for the required preliminary examination, prior to their being admitted to the study of pharmacy; of these the following passed, and are named in order of merit, and are entitled to be registered as "certified apprentices," namely: Fred. Galarneau, W. Charles Walsh, J. J. A. Fillion, Horace Bernier, J. E. Payette, George Mathie, Joseph E. Labelle, and Henri C. Brasard.

The following passed upon all subjects, but one, namely: Arthur Robitaille and E. Joseph Bourgoûin (arithmetic); P. N. Boudreault (history); who will have to present themselves at the July examination, to be examined upon these subjects only, the remainder of the candidates being referred back for further study. The candidates were examined in French,