

how gladly will you ride for miles or give your last dollar to secure their services. Again, the pharmacist is a safeguard to you from the mistakes of careless or ignorant physicians. To the credit of the medical profession, it may be said that a mistake in writing prescriptions does not often occur. But when it does occur, it is the careful, watchful pharmacist who detects it, and, it may be, saves your life.

I have said that pharmacy claims at least a semi-professional position, and have spoken for the most part of its professional side. In his commercial life the pharmacist is brought into contact with other business men, and inasmuch as he is a buyer and seller of merchandise, his professional status is lost sight of, and his success is measured by his commercial standing. It is hard to convince people that he is entitled to any fee for professional services. They compute the value of medicine upon the market price of the crude drug and wages for time actually employed. They do not remember that the pharmacist has spent from four to ten years of the best part of his life, that he has expended hundreds of dollars, and worked for low wages, to prepare himself for his work. Strange as it may seem, the question in the mind of the average customer is not: "Can I rely upon this pharmacist to compound my medicine properly?" But it is: "What will he charge me?" We can not wonder, then, that many a pharmacist becomes discouraged in his attempts to practise professional pharmacy, and finally descends to the level of mere shop-keeping. All study, analysis and investigation must be prompted by his own love for them, and they are often pursued at the sacrifice of his business prosperity.

The time is fast approaching that will decide the future position of pharmacy. Unless upheld by popular sentiment there is danger that professional pharmacy will no longer be practised by our druggists, and that they will go to the other extreme, and pharmacy be lost in other vocations. Wherein lies our safety? In the earnest, united work of practical pharmacists and colleges of pharmacy, and in the recognition by the public of

the value of such work. If necessary, let us have more stringent legislation; thrust the inefficient pharmacist out of the ranks; resist the encroachments of other lines of business, and teach the people that their health depends upon the pharmacist as well as upon the physician.

Then will pharmacy occupy the high position to which it is justly entitled.—[National Druggist.

### EMPLASTRUM CANTHARIDIS.

(FROM DUNDONIAN).

In the issue of the B. & C. D. for July 13 last, I raised a query in connection with the above with a view, in the first place, of ascertaining the opinions of your readers on this subject, and, in the second, of suggesting some degree of uniformity in the dispensing of this particular article.

A large number of correspondents have since replied, and as I expected—and as, doubtless, your readers are well aware—pharmacists throughout the country are at sixes and sevens on the matter, a fact which is scarcely in keeping with our much vaunted uniformity.

I find that the large majority of your readers who have expressed their opinions are in favor of using simply the emp. canth., B. P. in the spreading of a blister, discarding altogether the employment of such intensifying agents as liq. epispat., acet. canth., tinct. canth., or even pulv. canth., unless either of these is specially ordered to be used.

It is worthy of note, however, that one of the examiners to the Pharmaceutical Society prefers that each blister should be neatly finished off by painting, or rather spreading, a little acetum cantharidis over it.

There is one point, on the other hand, which has not been referred to by any of your correspondents, and for information concerning which I am indebted to an expert, namely, that when either liq. epispat. or acet. canth. is used, or both, there will be found an excess of albumen in the urine, the existence of which might materially affect the proper diagnosis of a case unless the

practitioner were made aware of the use of such agents in any blisters he may have prescribed.

Presuming, therefore, that the first-mentioned plan is the one most deserving of general adoption, I would beg to submit the following suggestions to dispenser as embodying most of the good features of the recent discussion. When emp. lyttæ is ordered by a physician, a piece of adhesive plaster of the requisite size should be prepared to receive the blistering plaster in the usual way. Allowance having been made for a margin, a shape the exact size of the plaster should be made and placed on the top of the adhesive plaster. The emp. canth. (which should be fresh) should be spread with the thumb as uniformly as possible to the thickness of about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch, or about twice the thickness of a sixpence. The face of the blister should then be smoothed over, and made perfectly uniform with a slightly warmed spatula, and as olive oil must be applied before using a little may be rubbed lightly over the surface. The shape having been removed, and any adhering particles cleaned away, the blister should be covered with waxed paper, and sent out in a shallow box, preferably to rolling.

The box might bear directions to the attendant something like this:—

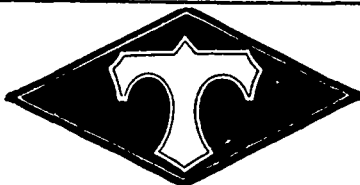
—[British and Colonial Druggist.

The Brockville Chemical Works have ceased the manufacture of sulphuric and other acids on account of over-stocked markets.

The many friends of John J. Hall, Woodstock, will regret to hear he is laid up with typhoid fever.

W. Gaynor, corner Church and Wellesley Streets, has sold out to I. Curry, Church Street. We understand Mr. Curry is going to run both stores.

DO NOT



LOSE A SALE

Stock up  
with

**DIAMOND TEA**

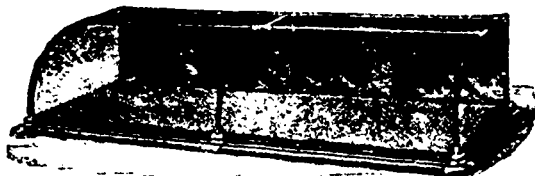
The great Blood, Liver and Kidney Regulator which is having a rapidly increasing sale, and is being extensively advertised. The druggists having the stock on hand when called for, will secure the trade. \$1.75 PER DOZEN.

**W. D. EDWARDS, LONDON, ONT.**

General Agent for Canada.

**STANDARD SHOW-CASE WORKS**

—: MANUFACTURERS OF —



**SHOW-CASES**

IN METAL, WALNUT, OAK, CHERRY AND MAHOGANY.

You will save money by sending for our prices before buying  
**WINDSOR, ONT.**