

which consisted of eviscerated patent-office bindings bearing the titles of rare books which made even this veteran bibliographer's eyes wonder. The mercenary doctor and druggist, therefore, are not far apart.

There is a small class, though, in both professions, who are prepared by the education to meet upon a common ground. This has one practical example in the conference of the committee on revision of the Pharmacopœia, and the utility of these meetings has in a measure suggested these thoughts. The matter may be summed up after this fashion :

The doctor, for his own sake, ought to know more of materia medica and therapeutics in order to be a leader and not an ignorant follower of any designing vendor who may come along. The druggist ought to be able, after hearing the suggestions of the needs of the physician in the treatment of the sick, to supply him a finished product. In practice, though, the seductive agent comes along with his samples, creates a demand in the physician's mind, the druggist loads up with a new stock. The doctor, upon thorough trial, may not find the preparation as useful as represented—a pitfall from which he might have been delivered had he been properly educated, or had there been proper professional understanding between the two. The result is, the druggist gets a lot of stock he can do nothing with, because by this time the credulous doctor may have found a new favorite compound and the druggist asked to repeat the experiment, and as he seems to be compelled to do it to keep his customers, he must make his prices higher than those mentioned to the doctor by the travelling agent, and there are grumbings and dissatisfactions on the part of the patients.

To those who have observed this peculiar course of events there must have come a conviction that most ready made compounds are a burden to druggists and doctors and patients, and if our doctors had the knowledge of pharmacy necessary or had the assurance of the skill of their druggists, by far the majority of what are now virtually proprietary compounds could be made extemporaneously and at a reasonable rate. The issue of the National Formulary showed that there is such a thing as putting in book form formulas that meet the demands of the doctor, and these could be largely increased if the doctors would take the same pains to let their wants be known, as the compilers of that formulary took to select them from the best sources in their reach.

The real reasons why our doctors do not see the necessity for some understanding with the druggist is because the experiment of a conference has never been tried. We learn that such a movement is about to be inaugurated and, if such members of the pharmaceutical profession as we could select were members of the conference, we are certain that good results will follow.

We cannot close these remarks without again urging upon medical students the

necessity of the practice of pharmacy in the dispensary or drug store. An active student could easily put in a few weeks during his course, and find it a matter of recreation as well as a source of practical knowledge, and if his future field is to be the country, where he will be his own druggist, he will find this knowledge indispensable.

To those druggists who carry on shop prescribing, based upon the files of prescriptions of which they are the custodians, we wish to say—abandon your disreputable and dangerous practice, honor the physician by being his helper, protect his reputation when you find his prescriptions inaccurate, and your business will increase and you will elevate your shop-keeping to a profession.—*Western Druggist.*

#### Local Pharmaceutical Associations.

At a recent meeting of the Newcastle-on-Tyne Pharmaceutical Association Mr. Frederick Park, President, spoke amongst other topics on the advantages of such associations. A portion of his address—clipped from *The British and Colonial Druggist*—will repay perusal. He said—He thought they all derived great benefit from such associations as theirs, as apart from the pleasure of hearing the opinions of other pharmacists, by meeting and discussing subjects of interest, they tended to improve their mutual welfare, and at times—such as the present—they were enabled to discuss pharmaceutical politics. They also learned a great deal from each other in connection with their daily business, yet not neglecting the social side of the question, being enabled to spend an evening in an exceedingly pleasant manner. What was of still more importance, the association established a union among them, which in their trade was so desirable, in order that trade interests might be efficiently safeguarded, and which in the absence of combined effort were allowed to go to the wall. Especially those who were students ought to reap benefit from the association by attending the meetings and hearing the papers and discussions. These were all of mutual interest, and students would gather a considerable amount of useful information, which would stand them in good stead in the examination-room, and, what was of even more importance, would prove useful to them in future, both behind the counter and in the laboratory. Younger members had excellent opportunities of getting information on knotty points by asking questions and initiating discussions, which, although not absolutely clearing up a point in dispute, yet, in all probability, would throw some light on the subject. They also had an excellent opportunity of gaining confidence in their own powers by joining in the discussions which arose. The papers read should be of a practical nature, useful alike to qualified or unqualified. Their studies should not cease with the possession of the "Minor" parchment, but each one ought to

#### TAKE UP SOME SPECIAL BRANCH OF SCIENCE AS A "HOBBY,"

upon which he could fall back by way of recreation. His own personal experience went to prove the value of such a recreation. Even if they had their studies to look to, it was necessary to have an antidote to continual study, as it would refresh their minds and enable them to pursue their studies with greater zest. An assistant or apprentice had excellent opportunities afforded him of engaging in a hobby, he being in a position to understand and obtain most apparatus of a scientific nature on terms which were not within reach of young men of other businesses. The camera and the microscope were admirable instruments which gave excellent and unlimited scope for the mind, and he could speak with pleasure of happy hours spent with them. It mattered little what branch of science was followed so long as it distracted the mind from business and £ s. d. Their education suited them so well for understanding all that appertained to scientific instruments and most of the chemical and physical reactions of such, that they held an enviable position with regard to opportunity for choosing their hobby. Photography was an excellent example of this. Let him say a few words about

#### MAKING GOOD USE OF THEIR KNOWLEDGE.

Those who made most use of knowledge gained were those who prove most successful in business. It was of no use storing away information in their brains. It was meant to be turned to some practical account. Knowledge hoarded up was of no benefit to any one, not even to the possessor of it. The habit of observation and reflection should be carefully cultivated. Let them try and find out the *rationale* of everything instead of taking things for granted. Very often they might not be able to apply knowledge they possessed to any practical advantage at the time, but it was sure to come in handy sooner or later. He would advocate the value of research, and would try and impress them with the importance of such work. There was an immense field for them in chemistry. There was no limit to it, but it was of just as much importance to find new uses for known facts as it was to discover altogether new ones. Look at the recent rapid strides taken by science as applied to steam, electricity, &c., the telephone, telegraph and electric light! The same applied to pharmacy, and by extending the scope of present appliances they might benefit the community as much as though they were the discoverers of a new chemical law.

There is a magnetism about earnestness that convinces a man almost every time. Be thoroughly in earnest in everything you do, and you are a great way in accomplishing what you undertake. Earnestness is epidemic. If you have something to sell and you intensify your belief that it is the best, you may be sure to carry conviction.