

Pharmaceutical Department.

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It is a remarkable feature connected with the literature of the Province of Quebec, that there is no medium in journalism, with the exception of the ordinary daily press, by which the pharmacist can make known his researches and discoveries, or from which he can glean information on subjects connected with his special calling. That this condition of affairs should have existed so long, without any effort having been made before to rectify it, seems almost incredible, especially when we take into consideration the well-known energy and enterprise of the pharmacists of this Province, which is most assuredly second to none in the Dominion, with this one exception. To alter this condition of affairs it has been proposed to devote a certain portion of the *Canada Medical Record* to the interests and uses of pharmacists; which portion can be afterwards increased according to the demand for space, while at the same time the journal can be used as an advertising medium. The enlargement, however, is not made at the expense of the medical department of the journal, which remains as heretofore, but by printing four additional pages, and as circumstances show that our efforts are being appreciated, the space will be increased; in fact, we will give four pages additional matter, so that our old subscribers will not be deprived of their usual amount of medical news. The success of this innovation will in a great measure depend upon the support and assistance furnished by the pharmacists themselves. Therefore, the co-operation of all interested in the welfare and advancement of pharmacy is respectfully solicited. By this means it is hoped that a channel will be opened up by which free communication can be established, not only between druggists themselves with mutual advantage, but also between them and the members of the medical profession, whereby the latest discoveries, improvements and inventions may become more generally known, and the public at large will then more readily experience the benefit of their united researches.

Editor's Notice.—All communications and correspondence connected with the *Pharmaceutical Department* of this journal should be directed to A. H. Kollmyer, M.D., Box 936 P. O., Montreal.

A column will be devoted to Queries, etc., and we shall endeavor to furnish answers to the best of our ability; but in all such cases we must insist upon the name and address of the writer.

Exchanges with other Pharmaceutical and Chemical journals are respectfully solicited.

NOTES ON DISPENSING.

By H. R. GRAY.

Too much attention cannot be given to this important branch of practical pharmacy, and its most minute details should in every case be scrupulously and intelligently attended to. It is just possible that all this care may not make the medicine any more efficient than were the musty infusions and decoctions supplied so liberally to our forefathers from the old-fashioned doctor's surgery, but the care displayed in bottling, labelling and wrapping, gives confidence to the patient, and is indirectly a pretty correct indication of the quality of the medicine itself.

The pharmacist should, in every case, copy the prescription into a book, kept for that purpose, called a prescription book, and he will find it a great aid to correct dispensing, if this is done prior to making up the medicine, as it will enable him to study and check the prescription without exciting the alarm of a nervous patient.

Some pharmacists paste the prescription into the prescription book and number it, but there are so many objections to this course, that I am quite sure a short trial of the copying system will lead to its immediate adoption. In case of accident the copy of the original prescription on the register will be the best proof he can offer that he has *correctly read it*. The original should, of course, always be retained when possible, and at the close of each week they should be carefully folded, the name of the presenter, with date, written on the back, and put away in a box kept for the purpose, as is the case with invoices. With regard to the proprietorship in the prescription, this is a vexed question. My own opinion is, that it belongs to the patient. However, as so few people make any objection to the pharmacist retaining the prescription, it is always best to do so, and to furnish a copy when asked for. In England, it is customary to return the prescription in every case. In the United States it is usual to retain it. When the patient particularly requests to have his original prescription, it is best to give it to him and retain a copy, taking the precaution to number and price it, and stamp it with a small embossing stamp. Some physicians raise an objection to the repetition of prescriptions without the patient returning to them; but a little reflection will shew that the pharmacist is powerless in the matter. No pharmacist should repeat a prescription containing an exceptionally dangerous drug without advising the patient to obtain from the physician a renewal of the order. So many prescriptions are given in chronic cases with instructions to take three or four bottles before returning to the physician, that it is an utter