Every physician can recall at least a score of cases in which the patient has tried the drug store first before consulting the physician. In justice to the druggists, it must be said that the public tempt them to do this thing, in some cases the latter being astonished and angry because the druggist refuses to treat them or repeat their prescriptions. If the doctor does not care to give his own medicine, he might arrange to send his prescriptions to those druggists who would bind themselves not to repeat or give copies of prescriptions. We have no doubt that some arrangement could be made by which the evil might be overcome without doing anything so absurd as applying to the legislature.

THE MURPHY BUTTON.

About a year ago Dr. Lapthorn Smith brought the Murphy button before the notice of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Montreal, when its application to end-to-end and lateral anastomosis was demonstrated on pigs' intestines. The members were favorably impressed by the rapidity with which the operation was performed, as well as by its simplicity, and since then two of the members, Drs. Shepherd and Jas. Bell, have employed it in several cases with very good results. Two of these cases have been seen by the writer several weeks after the operation, and they were quite convalescent, although the button had not then passed per rectum. This, however, was a matter of very little consequence, the button being sure to pass in time, although in many cases it requires several weeks to become detached. At the last meeting of the Medico-Chirurgical Society, Dr. James Bell reported three cases in which he had employed this ingenious device, two of the cases making good recoveries, but the third dying from dropping out of the button before union had become complete. On the whole, he spoke very highly of the value of the instrument. Means will probably be found to prevent this accident from recurring, either by going farther into healthy bowel to avoid the chance of anastomozing intestine which has lost its vitality, or by running a silk suture around the joined edges after the button has been inserted, so as to hold the serous edges together; even if adhesions failed to form between the cutting rings. During a recent visit to Toronto, Dr. Murphy called attention to a number of buttons which were being sold by dealers which were full of dangerous defects. We have seen some of these defective buttons in Montreal which were made in England by a man who failed to grasp the idea of the button, for there was no collar projecting around which the intestine ends were to be drawn. Such a button could not be used successfully. It is only fair to an instrument or to the man who invents it that the genuine article be employed, and after failure it is evidently unjust to condemn his instrument or his method when some entirely different method or instrument has been used. The Murphy button has, we think, come to stay, and greater familiarity with its working will probably render it more and more useful and safe.

THE ANTI-TOXINE TREATMENT OF DIPHTHERIA.

It is a pretty generally accepted fact that people who have had a zymotic disease rarely have it a second time, and even if they do, the second attack is much milder than the first. Why is this the case? Some change has taken place in the blood which renders it an unsuitable soil for that particular germ. Lady Montague applied this principle by inoculating healthy people with smallpox serum, in order to give them a mild form of smallpox which would protect them from a second attack. Sir William Jenner discovered that smallpox virus, after passing through several generations of cows, became much weakened, so that inoculation with it was far less dangerous than with the original virus. Koch and Pasteur discovered that the same law applied to cholera and tuberculosis, and although the latter has not proved so valuable as it was at first claimed for it, it promises that at some not far distant time it will yet fulfill the claims which its inventor has made for it. More lately, pupils of Koch and Pasteur have been experimenting with diphtheria virus, and have made the remarkable discovery that by inoculating the horse with diphtheria bacilli, and thus giving it the disease, the serum of that horse has an antidotal effect upon the diphtheria bacilli when the serum is injected into the infected patient's blood. It acts as an antidote, and is therefore called anti-toxine. The