

### The New Pharmacist and the Old Drug Store.

The drug business of our day is not pharmacy. Pharmacy is something very much higher up in the scale. What passed for pharmacy years ago will no longer suffice. The pharmacist of the future must be an educated, scientific, technical expert—nothing less. Men unable to do chemical and microscopical work will no longer be recognized as competent pharmacists.

#### THE NEW PHARMACIST WILL BE A NEW SPECIES

as much unlike the average corner-store druggist as the printing press of to-day is unlike that of the sixteenth century. The new pharmacist will not make or sell any secret nostrums; he will not sell cigars, soda water, soaps, perfumery, stationery, rubber goods, paints, glass, candies, chewing-gum and other merchandise having no relation to pharmacy. He will not be a salesman in any sense or degree. The "cut rates" problem, which seems to be the plague of the retail druggist of the day will no more affect the occupation and prosperity of the new pharmacist than the climate of Kamtschatka. The new pharmacist will gladly and cheerfully recognize the fact that

#### THE SOLE MISSION OF PHARMACY

is to wait upon medicine. He will know and be able to demonstrate that the physician cannot be his own pharmacist without serious detriment to all concerned. He will know that the educated physician alone is competent to prescribe, and that the pharmacist's duty does not and should not clash with that of the physician. Jealousy or rivalry between them is ridiculous. They are as distinct from each other and as little subject to comparison as the odor of the rose and the color of the butterfly in its bosom. It is in no sense or degree derogatory to the pharmacist to admit that he is not the equal of the physician. The physician is not the equal of the pharmacist. But the pharmacist certainly is and must be an expert aid to the physician while the latter is in no sense an aid to the pharmacist. The pharmacist is in his right place when he devotes his knowledge and skill to the task of assisting the physician in every legitimate and useful way. The new pharmacist will enlarge his sphere of useful technical work and bring it to a higher degree of development. Any pharmacist who cannot work on the principle that pharmacy is the handmaid of medicine is like a tree with its crown in the soil and its roots in the air.

#### WILL TEST EVERYTHING HE USES.

The new pharmacist will possess the knowledge and training necessary to the unerring identification and intelligent selection of the medicinal substances employed by the physician. He will be able to determine for himself the purity and strength of all substances, the character of which admits of such determination.

He will, in fact, test all the chemicals he uses, and will not put forth the absurd claim that the faithful performance of that duty is impracticable. He will faithfully and intelligently protect all his medical supplies from deterioration, and will religiously perform his plain duty to immediately reject any and every substance found to have become so altered or injured as to be no longer in accordance with the recognized requirements as to quality and effectiveness. He will renew his supplies of plant drugs every year, at the right season, throwing away what is left over of last season's stock, so far as to insure reliable remedies. He will employ sensitive and accurate balances and graduated measures, and will use them with skill. All his work will be governed by scientific principles.

The new pharmacist will further do all the laboratory work which the physician will require of him in medical and sanitary chemistry, bacteriology, etc. He will, moreover, be the public chemist of his community.

#### THE AVERAGE DRUG STORE OF TO-DAY

is a kind of department store or bazaar on a prominent corner. Most of its business is purely mercantile. The rent is high. The profits on its sales of merchandise are so small that a very large volume of trade is necessary to make the business pay. This in turn necessitates the investment of a large capital and the employment of salesmen. The soda fountain, cigar case, and candy case make the average drug store anything but a suitable place for such work as the careful, safe, and accurate dispensing of prescriptions.

The new pharmacist will not locate himself in a noisy, expensive corner store to catch the transient customer. He will not have any miscellaneous merchandise to sell. He will, instead, establish himself in a quiet place sufficiently accessible to those who require his services. His capital will be \$1,000 instead of \$10,000, and yet he will certainly be more prosperous and successful than the druggist who carries on the retail drug business as now conducted.

#### WILL BE A PROFESSIONAL MAN.

The new pharmacist will be able to command respect and recognition as a professional man. The difference between the new pharmacy and the old will be so great as to immediately attract the attention of thinking people, and there are enough thinking people in the world to give the new pharmacist abundant occupation.

The new pharmacy laws will in time be amended so as to make proper education for pharmaceutical work the most important qualification for registration, and the numerous druggists of the country will be divided into two distinct classes—those who have the requisite scientific training to be permitted to do all scientific, technical pharmaceutical work, and those who

lack that training and, therefore, will not be permitted to dispense physicians' prescriptions or to dispense any potent medicinal substance.

#### NEW PHARMACISTS NEEDED NOW.

The necessity of this new style of pharmacy is a present necessity, and the pharmaceutical chemist will be the coming new pharmacist, by whatever name he may be called, for any graduate in pharmacy who has had proper and sufficient training in applied pharmaceutical chemistry and related laboratory work is just what we mean by the designation "pharmaceutical chemist," and no one else is one, even if he may be called so.—*Dr. Oscar Oldberg, in The Apothecary.*

### Contribution to the Knowledge of Strychnine Drugs.\*

By G. SANDER.

Herr Sander has investigated the nature of strychnic or igasuric acid, and the different methods for the determination and separation of strychnine and brucine, as many varying and contradictory statements have been made on this subject.

The acid existing in the official strychnine drugs, nux vomica and *Fabae St. Ignatii*, has been generally described as "igasuric acid," and the plant bases as existing in the drug as igasurates. Although igasuric acid has been regarded as a form of tannic acid, it has not been ascertained to which class of tannins it belonged. In order to obtain further information respecting this acid, Herr G. Sander prepared in the first instance some purest possible material. The pure acid was obtained by fractional precipitation of a cold alcoholic extract with lead acetate, and the lead precipitated decomposed with sulphuretted hydrogen. The acid so prepared was an amorphous brownish-yellow substance, which could be easily rubbed down and powdered. The acids obtained from both drugs appear from many agreeing reactions to be identical. A series of reactions with ferric chloride, lead acetate, silver nitrate, bromine, etc., pointed to a marked agreement with *caffetannic acid*. When the "igasuric acid" is treated with potash it is split up into another acid with formation of a sugar. This acid proved to be *caffic acid*. The so-called igasuric acid is, then, nothing more than *caffetannic acid*, but whether the alkaloids exist in the drugs in combination with this acid must remain for future investigation.

The various methods for determination of the total alkaloids in these drugs—dependent upon precipitation with Mayer's reagent, potassic ferrocyanide, tannic acid, or on titrating with acid the residuary alkaloids extracted by solvents—are unsatisfactory. The titration value of the two alkaloids, strychnine and brucine, being different, correct results are only to be

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