

—young men, gentlemanly and well-educated, whom we shall be pleased to welcome into our ranks when they have completed their apprenticeship. This cannot but operate for our good by increasing public respect and confidence.

But there is still another cause for congratulation and an even more hopeful sign for the future in the continuous cordial relations between the physicians and pharmacists of the Province. That these two professions are dependent, the one upon the other, goes without saying. That the prosperity of the one means the prosperity of the other, is also true. I am happy to say that I am not aware that there is at any point in the Province any friction between the pharmacists and the members of the medical profession. And here I would like to bear testimony to the good work accomplished in this direction by the institution of the pharmacy lectures in connection with the Manitoba Medical College. The association of the students in pharmacy and medicine cannot but have a beneficial effect, both in the formation of acquaintances and in the mutual respect which such associations are sure to engender.

Before proceeding to the consideration of the graver problems before us, let us consider for a moment the sale of sundries, patent medicines, etc., by grocers, dry-goods merchants and departmental stores. This, of course, is a very difficult question to deal with, and requires very careful consideration. In regard to the sale of toilet articles, etc., about the only remedy that can be recommended is to manage business on the strictest business principles. It may be that in the past the percentage of profit has been too large. If so, a reduction must be made to compete with other businesses carrying this line. Another method is to watch the wholesale houses and refuse to patronize those houses that deal with other businesses than the drug trade. This is extensively done in Eastern cities and with measurable success.

In regard to the sale of patent medicines, there is one method of prevention

which it seems to me might be healthy in its effect. I have long considered this question, and in the proposed solution I am quite certain we would have the support of the most influential men in that influential body—the medical men. It is not necessary for me here to say anything about the evils of the indiscriminate use of patent medicines, the harm they do when taken into a system not in need of them, the bad effects wrought in numberless cases. Interested as the druggist is in the preservation of the public health and the prevention of disease, I do not think that we, as druggists, could do better than urge upon the government the necessity of passing an Act compelling the manufacturers of patent medicines to print on the label the formula from which the medicine is made. This is done in England in the case of all medicines containing poisonous drugs. Its advantages both to the community at large and to the druggists are obvious. Why, then, should not the operation of such an Act be extended to patent medicines and put in force in Canada?

Within the last few years there has been growing a new industry, one scarcely heard of a decade ago, but which at the present time is assuming enormous proportions. I refer to the manufacture of elegant pharmaceutical preparations and tablet-triturates. It is to the interest of the vendors of these articles to create a mutual distrust between the doctors and the druggists, to endeavor to make the doctor believe that the druggist is working against his interests and in addition reaping profits which might as well be in the pocket of the doctor himself. This brings us back to the question of the relations between the doctor and the druggist.

Here let me deal with several charges made against the druggists as a profession by men interested in creating a breach between the pharmacist and the physician, in undermining the confidence of the latter in the former. The principal of these charges are the substitution of drugs, counter-prescribing, and the mak-