of the patients is continually in his hands; then can we realize somewhat of the importance and responsibility of the duties of the pharmacist, and the necessity of a well-defined scientific system of education for the proper performance of them. Therefore, if anyone is willing to undertake these responsibilities, it is his bounden duty to qualify himself that none may suffer from his ignorance, and it should be his ambition to make himself worthy of all confidence. He should be acquainted with all the characters and relations of the bodies with which he has to deal; his information should only be limited by his abilities and circumstances. He should know the appearances of the articles, their physical properties, their source and modes of preparation, their actions on one another, and to a certain extent their action on the human system, and their doses when used internally. He should be able to judge intelligently of differences in quality, and of adulterations; and lastly he should be able to compound skillfully. Any information which will enable him to understand more clearly the characters and properties of the drugs he uses, or perform more intelligently his various duties, is worthy of his attention.

A very large proportion of the articles in our Materia Medica are productions of the vegetable kingdom. Apart from our knowledge of the chemical and physical properties, and physiological action of these bodies, there are many facts concerning them of which the above branches do not take cognizance. We speak of the shapes and structures of roots, stems, and leaves, of the distinction between various plants, of their habitat, and conditions of growth. These, and other similar considerations, form the subject-matter of that branch of science known as botany. We would draw attention to this point, because those who disparage the value of botany in a pharmaceutical education are apt to forget that a large part of our ordinary knowledge concerning vegetables and vegetable productions is strictly botanical in its nature, and is correct and valuable only so far as it corresponds with the teachings of that branch of science. Every pharmacist employs this kind of knowledge in his daily calling, empirically it may be in many cases, but most successful where most rational. If, then, a vague indefinite kind of botanical knowledge is found valuable and absolutely necessary for the ordinary performance of the pharmacist's duties, how much more valuable and trustworthy would that knowledge be if it were more exact and extended.