

PHARMACEUTICAL

We would suggest to the Pharmaceutical Association of Manitoba that they should seek an amendment to their Act at the next sitting of the Local Legislature. Inasmuch as they acquire their profession at considerable outlay of time and money, and, further, have to pay certain yearly fees. It is unjust to admit storekeepers and grocers to vend medicines, proprietary or otherwise, without first obtaining a license so to do. These medicines frequently contain ingredients of a poisonous nature, of which the storekeeper is, of course, unaware. We believe the Pharmacists have a good case to present to the Legislature, and if properly conducted it would be attended with success.—Ed.

THE PHYSICIAN AND PROPRIETARY MEDICINES

The paper read by Dr. Fotheringham at the recent B. M. A. meeting, is one which should be carefully perused by every physician and pharmacist. The sentiments expressed with regard to the flood of specialties now on the market will appeal to every druggist as being eminently fitting to the occasion.

There can be no doubt that the art of prescribing, and the knowledge of materia medica and therapeutics, are gradually becoming beyond the reach of the average physician, since all the labor of prescribing has been taken out of his hands by the enterprising manufacturer, who puts into the hands of the physicians ready-made prescriptions to suit any and all cases.

But it is particularly the relations between the pharmacist and physician that are of most interest to us. Dr. Fotheringham says: "When we specify the name of any maker we might, so far as the proper function of the chemist is concerned, just as well have the prescribed

article sold at the grocer's, as the chemist's function becomes purely mechanical, and by this habit, we are assisting in placing ourselves more fully in the hands of the manufacturers, and in killing off our best assistant, the retail chemist." Again: "What I wish to point out is that the interest of the physician and his patients are usually more nearly identical with those of the retailer than with those of the large manufacturer, and that while in regard to certain preparations we cannot dispense with the services of the wholesale manufacturer, we need not, therefore, transfer our whole patronage to him and force the retail chemist to be merely a handler of the goods of his richer rival." This is sound common sense, but, unfortunately, many physicians do not see it in the same light, with the result that they are simply tools in the hands of manufacturers, and have lost all right to the name of physicians.

There is no doubt that much of the advances in therapeutics in recent years is due to the enterprise of certain manufacturing houses by the introduction of new drugs, upon which they have spent large sums of money: but there is one class of concerns which prey upon the gullibility and ignorance of physicians—concerns which, by their push and enterprise, have foisted worthless or simple mixtures of well-known drugs upon the profession as wonderful "coal tar compounds of the benzene series," ammoniated, phosphorated, and various other high-sounding titles, the basis of all of which is simply acetic acid with ammonium carbonate, etc., which are valuable only to the manufacturers: or the host of preparations ending in "ine" or "ol," sold with labels on which appear so-called formula specially designed for the purpose of misleading the physician ignorant enough to prescribe them. These are preparations to which physicians should give a wide berth, and the sooner this matter is taken up and acted upon by medical societies the better it will be for medicine in general. — *Canadian Pharmaceutical Journal*.