

Pharmacy in Denmark.

An article by M. J. Arnesen in the *Chemist and Druggist* says: In Denmark pharmacies, or "Apotheks," are either "real" or "personal," the difference being that real pharmacies may be bought or sold in the open market by pharmacists, whereas licenses for personal pharmacies are given by the State in turn to the oldest pharmacist on the register, provided he has or can get capital enough to start the business—from which it follows that hard cash very much decides who is to be the happy licensee.

Those who have not the patience to wait until they shall be qualified for a "personal" license, or the wherewithal to set up a "real" pharmacy, but are yet desirous of being their own masters, very often start "druggists'" shops, in which they may sell simples and certain other articles not expressly reserved to pharmacists, and some few obtain positions as chemists in breweries or chemical manufacturing factories.

The training of all pharmacists is the same, and commences with a preliminary examination embracing Latin, in lieu of which the university matriculation certificate is accepted. The apprenticeship is fixed by the pharmacy act at at least three years, though the majority serve three and a half to four years. As all pharmacies are professional in the full meaning of the word and no doctors are allowed to dispense, it follows that those three years are full of work and experience.

For the first year our intending pharmacist generally works at the counter under supervision of an assistant, and performs the usual work of putting up articles for sale—in most cases crude drugs, because patent medicines or secret remedies are forbidden by law. Some popular compounds of the Pharmacopœia are, however, put up and sold to the public, such as tr. roborans, made from cort. cinchon., cort. aurantii, and rad. gent. This is sold all over the country, also the official tooth-powders, pulv. rheco., etc., all according to the local demand. No counter-prescribing is allowed. But besides this the apprentice is mostly employed to see that the pharmacy is clean and well provided with bottles, boxes, etc. in the retail and dispensing department, and in giving the dispenser a hand in capping, labeling, and packing up prescriptions and medicines. As the time is from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. in winter and from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. in summer, he is generally allowed a half-day off in the week and every second Sunday as a holiday. This, however, is a personal favor, and cannot be demanded legally. After 7 p.m., with the exception of counter sales, the apprentice's "spare time," and such energy as remains to a youth who has done from twelve to fifteen hours' shop-work, is devoted to study.

The second year our young man is admitted to the laboratory and taught how

to prepare all galenicals, as decoctions and infusions, which are always extempore, making extracts, macerating tinctures, making ointments, plasters, etc. He must also fill the tincture-bottles, jars, etc., set aside the night before from the stock. Every pharmacy is obliged to have a fully-equipped laboratory with distillation apparatus, steam-pans, percolators, etc., and in most cases the apprentice has to keep a record of the preparations made, the manner in which they are prepared, and the result obtained.

The remaining time the apprentice spends in the dispensing department making mixtures, lotions, gargles, pills, lozenges, etc., all, of course, under the eye of a trusted assistant or of the principal himself. The metric system is used, and all ingredients are weighed, whether liquids or solids. Small quantities of ointments are made with mortar and pestle.

After having finished his practical training the apprentice, as a rule, goes through a short course of theoretical study, and then enters for the minor examination, which only gives him right to act as assistant. This examination is held only at Copenhagen.

Having successfully got through this ordeal, he in most cases takes a position as assistant, partly to become further acquainted with his work through practical experience, and partly perhaps to earn some money wherewith to pay for his teaching for the major examination. The preparation for this, as a rule, takes three sessions of six months each, though a smart man may get through in two, which is allowed. In most cases botany, the Pharmacopœia, and pharmacognosy are taken after two sessions, and the third is devoted to practical and theoretical chemistry in its various branches.

If the young pharmacist has acquired his major, and has sufficient cash, he may be able to secure a "real" apothek; but in most cases he serves a further term as assistant, and possibly remains in that position, patiently waiting for his turn to get a "personal" license until he stands on the brink of the grave.

As far as the social position is concerned, the Danish pharmacist ranks as the equal of medical men, lawyers, and other professional men, and in many cases he takes an active part in public affairs.

A Good Side Line for Druggists.

C. A. Boyden, Ph.G., in the *New England Druggist*, says as a side line for pharmacists, photographic stock offers many advantages.

There is practically no dead stock; your stock is not perishable, and only a few things deteriorate by age.

The profit is not particularly large, but may be made to average very well by using good judgment and by the exercise of ability as a chemist and as an amateur photographer. I strongly recommend

that you make yourself somewhat familiar with the art of amateur photography before starting the business. This, however, is not absolutely necessary; but it greatly facilitates your business, as it is half the battle now, in making a sale, to be conversant with the goods you are selling.

The art is simple enough, and easily acquired with a little practice, and it affords a great deal of pleasure, as well as instruction.

It trains the eye to grasp an entire scene at a glance, and particularly cultivates the habit of observation, which is of great value to us all.

In this series of papers I shall endeavor to give my readers the benefit of the experience I have had during the last fifteen years, during which time I have sold many thousand dollars' worth of stock and developed for myself and others nearly twenty-five thousand negatives of various sizes, from the little $1\frac{1}{2}$ by $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 11 by 14.

I shall try to give practical instruction in exposing, developing, printing, toning, mounting, and finishing, together with formulas for such solutions as are necessary, and those I have found practical.

And here I would say that I believe that whatever is worth doing is worth doing well, and unless you feel like giving the business a little attention, I would say let it alone.

But, on the other hand, if you feel like devoting a little time and making a moderate investment of capital, I feel quite sure you will find it a pleasant and profitable addition to your business. Not only will you get new customers for photographic goods, but incidentally get much of their regular drug trade which otherwise might go elsewhere. Your business at first will, of course, be chiefly in the line of supplies, as plates, chemicals, papers, developers, and toning solutions. The chemicals required are many of them kept regularly in stock, and will not call for very much outlay. Graduates, glass tunnels, stirring rods, drying racks, printing frames, card mounts, and dry plates should be a part of your regular stock.

For glass tunnels, the ribbed variety, pint and quart size, are best.

Printing frames, 4x5, 5x7, 5x8, $6\frac{1}{2}$ x8 $\frac{1}{2}$, should be kept in stock, 4x5 being the size most called for.

Card mounts you must buy to correspond to the plates used. They come in almost an endless variety of styles and finish. In selecting these, beware of inferior grades, which are made from cardboard which contain traces of chemicals used in their manufacture and are liable to injure the prints by making them fade and turn yellow.

Dry plates of various sizes and kinds must be kept in stock at all times. There are many brands in the market, most of which, by proper treatment, will produce excellent results. The list price is the same for all, but the discounts both at wholesale and retail vary considerably.