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CASWELL A. MAYO, Ph.G. Editor.
THOMAS J. KEENAN Associate Editor.
IRVING J. BENJAMIN Business Manager.

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ROMAINE PIERSON Manager.

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GET YOUR STAMPS.

THERE is no need of undue fret or worry over the new war revenue law. The AMERICAN DRUGGIST is authorized by a representative of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue to announce that retail pharmacists who exercise reasonable care in recording sales of taxable goods will have no serious difficulty with the Government provided they purchase and cancel the required stamps when obtainable. The record of taxable goods sold without stamps must be complete in detail and must be sworn to, and the stamps which should have been affixed to the goods sold must be attached to the record of sales and canceled. Most of the stamps required may now be had and it is the duty of each druggist to keep a supply on hand and to stamp his taxable goods when sold. The proprietary stamps on sale at the office of the local revenue collector Thursday were of the following denominations: $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{3}{8}$, $\frac{5}{8}$, 1, $1\frac{1}{2}$, 2, $2\frac{1}{2}$, 4 and 5 cents. These stamps will be found sufficient for most sales in a drug store.

Regarding the question what goods are taxable and what goods are exempt, it must be admitted that the Government in its rulings seems inclined to leave no loop-hole for evasion. Fortunately, representatives of the wholesale trade have taken up the fight on behalf of the druggists against too great harshness on the part of the Treasury Department and an official opinion is expected, founded upon a communication to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, which may be found in the news columns of this issue. This will clear up the vexed question of what medicines are proprietary preparations and what are not.

That, however, is a question of more interest to the wholesaler and manufacturer than to the retailer. The retail druggist who stamps every bottle of patent medicine, perfumery and wine he sells and every box of chewing gum exposed for sale is not likely to have trouble with the Government. And after the stock of taxable goods on hand is sold, the retail

druggist will not have to worry any more about it, as all his future invoices will be stamped before being shipped to him.

OUR SERIES OF PRIZE ESSAYS.

WE print as the prize essay in this number, a very suggestive paper on "The Drug Store Cellar," accompanied with a plan of a model cellar and engravings from photographs showing the arrangement of stock. The successful essayist is Franklin C. Weber, Ph.G., of Ambler, Pa.

It was our purpose to discontinue the offering of the \$5 premium with the close of Volume XXXII.; but the publication of so many original essays has proved so stimulating to druggists of a literary turn of mind, and we have received so many evidences of the exceptional interest taken in this department that we have determined upon a continuation of this feature of the AMERICAN DRUGGIST. The Prize Essay Department will, therefore, be conducted as heretofore, and new features will be added as may from time to time suggest themselves, thus assuring to our readers a plentiful supply of original contributions of special value to working pharmacists.

In the original announcement of the inauguration of a Prize Essay Column, we offered a special prize of \$10 to be awarded to the contestant submitting the highest number of successful essays during the first six months the department continued in operation, and we have pleasure in announcing the award of this special prize to Ed. E. Williams, of Antigo, Wis., who has been successful in carrying off the prize on three separate occasions. The papers for which Mr. Williams was awarded prizes are entitled respectively "Two Preparations of Orange," printed on page 125; "Pointers on Opium Preparations," page 252, and "My Best Investment," page 311.

For the convenience of new readers and others who have not heretofore taken an active interest in the Prize Essay Column, we may state that preference is given to brief articles, descriptive of new apparatus or of pharmaceutical contrivances; notes

on new methods of preparing galenical compounds; dispensing difficulties solved; hints on window dressing; the care of the soda fountain; the best method of store arrangement and pharmaceutical formulas, including toilet preparations, perfumes, soda syrups and medicinal preparations.

Our object in inaugurating the Prize Essay Column was, as we have repeatedly urged, to secure the co-operation of our readers in making each issue of the AMERICAN DRUGGIST a practical means of enriching the general fund of information regarding druggists' methods and pharmaceutical manipulation, and our success is well demonstrated by the many valuable papers to be found in the volume just closed.

Those intending to compete are again reminded that comparatively brief and business-like essays will be regarded by the Prize Essay Editor with more favor than lengthy papers on abstruse matters or of a purely scientific character.

PHARMACISTS IN THE U. S. SERVICE.

WE proffer our congratulations to the apothecaries of the Navy upon the passage of the Hale bill, which gives the rank of warrant officers to twenty-five apothecaries in the Navy. While this is a marked step in advance, we cannot but feel that it is merely an opening wedge in the direction of obtaining for the pharmacists in the United States service a proper degree of recognition. The details of the change in the position of the pharmacists wrought by the passage of this measure are set forth in our news columns. While the restriction of the number of apothecaries to whom warrants will be issued as pharmacists will in some cases work a hardship, it seems highly probable that with the present marked tendency towards National expansion, with its need of a larger Navy, the number of pharmacists in the service will soon be increased.

This advance in the Navy, will, moreover, be of much service as an argument in favor of the establishment of a pharmaceutical corps in the Army, to whom all pharmaceutical work will be intrusted. This matter has already been brought to the attention of the House Committee on Military Affairs, and while it is scarcely possible that any action will be taken at this late hour in the present session, there is a possibility and even a probability that when Congress again convenes the Army pharmacist will receive that degree of recognition which his capacity demands and which has heretofore been denied him.

A very large portion of the credit for the arousal of the public which has re-

sulted in the enactment of the Hale bill is due to Dr. Geo. F. Payne, of Atlanta, Ga., who has been the chairman of the Committee on the Status of Military Pharmacists ever since he began the present agitation in favor of an improvement of their status at the meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association, held at Asheville.

THE NEW YORK MEETING.

IN our news columns will be found a detailed account of the twentieth annual meeting of the New York State Pharmaceutical Association, which closed at Rochester, on July 2. While no work of National importance was transacted at this meeting, the action taken on many matters affecting the interests of the druggists of New York sets an example which may well be followed by sister associations.

The report of the Committee on Adulterations, which we print in full, suggests what can be done by the druggists themselves in the way of pointing out sources of inferior or adulterated drugs. It is gratifying to learn from this report that the drugs and chemicals sold in New York State are with few exceptions of superior quality. Of course, it will be noted that reference is made in the report to some substances which were found to be of inferior quality, but the substances referred to belong to the class which are prone to deterioration on keeping or concerning which there exists some difference of opinion as to whether or not they should be retailed in so concentrated a form as that prescribed by the U. S. Pharmacopoeia. While it is disputable ground, it must be admitted that there are good reasons occasionally for the sale of a diluted tincture. The customer who is used to department store medicines, particularly the lower grades of ammonia and the cheaper medicinal and flavoring essences, seeks the same quality and quantity in the drug store for the price paid in department stores. What can the druggist be expected to do in such cases?

The Committee on Adulterations makes a useful suggestion in regard to chlorine water, which merits the consideration of the Committee on Revision of the Pharmacopoeia.

The Committee on Trade Interests of the Association has been active during the past year in obtaining the views of retailers on questions affecting their commercial interests, and if the Association can carry out the recommendations contained in the committee's report, it will do a real service to the druggists of the State.

The prospects for an "All State bill," to make the practice of pharmacy uni-

form throughout the State, grow clearer, but there should be no imperiling of its fate by tacking on amendments designed to further the interests of private schools of pharmacy.

Of immediate importance to the pharmacists of the State is the understanding arrived at at this meeting between the three boards of pharmacy, looking to reciprocity and interchange of papers. An agreement also has been reached whereby the three boards will communicate to each other information regarding rejected candidates and it will no longer be possible for a candidate who has failed before the New York City Board to present himself before the State Board, undergo an easier examination, pass and immediately afterward demand registration from the board which had just rejected him.

The selection of William Muir, of Brooklyn, for president, furnishes an indication of the strength he has gained during the past year. It was the most fitting selection that could be made in view of the efforts now being made to amend the pharmacy law, as he is recognized as an able advocate before the Legislature.

DISPENSARY ABUSES.

DISPENSARY abuses are quite as serious a menace to the drug trade as they are to the medical profession. In the eagerness of the hospitals to procure "material" great latitude is shown in the matter of dispensing medicines, and little care is exercised to prevent the well-to-do from receiving the aid which should really only be extended to the indigent. The hospitals receive pecuniary aid from cities and from the charitably inclined on the plea that they are extending medical aid to persons who would otherwise be unable to obtain proper medical treatment. Having once secured the funds, however, the managers of many of the dispensaries become utterly regardless of this aspect of the situation and make every effort to obtain the largest possible amount of clinical "material." If the aid was extended only to the indigent no one would object, but in the fierce competition for "material" no questions are asked, and many well-to-do persons are furnished medical service free of charge and medicines approximately at cost, working an injury to the medical and pharmaceutical professions, and to the public, who are thus encouraged to sacrifice their self-respect and accept a charity which they do not need.

Likes It Better Every Issue.

I like the AMERICAN DRUGGIST better every issue.
JOE SCHWARZ.
Selma, Ala.

(Written for the American Druggist.)

GRADUATION A PRE-REQUIREMENT FOR LICENSING.

By WILLIS G. GREGORY,
Buffalo, N. Y.

Pharmaceutical legislation has nearly all been enacted within the last fifteen years, and only one or two States in the Union have not as yet placed the practice of pharmacy under legal control.

All of this rapidly acquired legislation, however, is directed only toward securing evidence that pharmacists are fit for their calling, and none of it relates in any way to the method by which they shall be trained for the practice of pharmacy. In this respect pharmaceutical enactments vary widely from those relating to medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine, in each of which graduation precedes examination by the State. At the present time candidates for licenses granted by examining boards of pharmacy may prepare themselves by routine experience, by the study of quiz compends, or by the systematic training given by the College of Pharmacy, and all are alike in the eye of the law, though vastly different in mental equipment and training.

That this condition of affairs has not escaped notice is shown by the following resolution adopted by the American Pharmaceutical Association at its meeting in 1894:

Resolved, That this Association approves of the establishment of a compulsory curriculum of pharmaceutical education, and holds that no person should be regarded as a qualified pharmacist who has not pursued to completion a systematic course of instruction in chemistry, pharmacognosy and pharmacy.

This same resolution was adopted by the International Pharmaceutical Congress, which met in Chicago in 1893.

Still earlier than this occurs the first consideration of this subject that the writer has been able to find, when the following resolution was unanimously adopted in 1891:

The Pennsylvania Pharmaceutical Association protests against the injustice done to our educational institutions through the recognition of medical diplomas as qualifications to practice pharmacy, and they further desire to record their convictions of the importance of the thorough education in pharmacy of those who are charged with performing its responsible duties, and while they may not believe it expedient at the present time to give the recognition to the certificates of our educational institutions that they deserve, it is the opinion of this body that every applicant for a State Board license should be a graduate of a reputable college of pharmacy, and produce evidence thereof before his examination.

The course of events since these resolutions were adopted by the bodies named has rather emphasized the necessity for the arrangement suggested, but the fact that nothing has been accomplished in that direction is another illustration of the ineffectiveness of resolutions.

A requirement of this nature may seem quite radical to those considering it for the first time, and it is proper that the results of such an innovation should be studied carefully. Let us suppose, then, that the laws in this State were so amended as to require graduation from a reputable college of pharmacy before an examination for a pharmacist's license would be permitted.

In the first place, such requirement would be an additional measure of protection for the public, in whose interest all pharmaceutical legislation has been justified. If it is wise and proper to establish an educational standard for the

practice of pharmacy in order to protect the public against unqualified pharmacists, it surely is along the same lines of protection to require that such pharmacists shall also receive systematic training in the principles and science of their calling.

Secondly, so far as those already within the ranks of pharmacy are concerned, it would secure to them such additions to their number as would be most apt to be creditable associates and helpers in the progress of pharmacy.

We cannot fail to recognize that pharmacy is both a trade and a profession, but surely it does not need a keen observer to see that at the present time we are suffering from an overdose of commercialism and it is believed that in some measure such a requirement as is proposed would prove an antidote to existing conditions.

How can a more effective means be devised of stimulating what little professional character is left still in the practice of pharmacy? We cannot hope ever to give it rank with medicine, or even with dentistry, but we properly may attempt to improve its present condition along professional lines.

Thirdly, with reference to those entering the practice of pharmacy, it would tend to secure for them that measure of success which is aided by thorough and systematic preparation.

What disadvantages there may be inherent in this proposed change remains

Prize Essay.

Brief, bright Essays, on subjects of interest to pharmacists, are invited for this department. For acceptable articles, long or short, the AMERICAN DRUGGIST will give \$5.00.

THE DRUG STORE CELLAR.

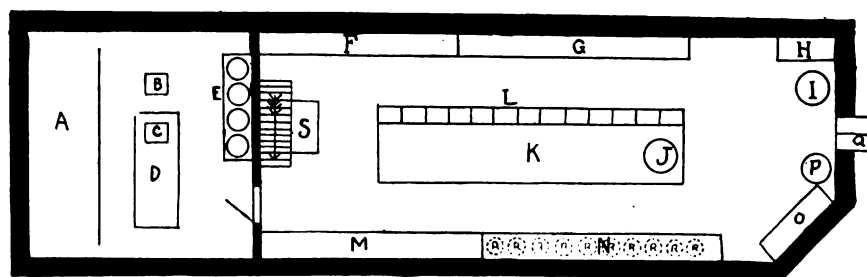
By F. C. WEBER, Ph.G.,
Ambler, Pa.

ANY one who has had occasion to enter many cellars of drug stores will agree with the writer that they are usually anything but inviting places to visit. There are, however, exceptions to this rule, and the cellar that is described here is, in my opinion, one of them. This cellar is not a myth existing only on paper, but is a picture true to the facts.

The cellar is usually regarded by the druggist as a part of the store from which the public must be excluded, so not much care is exercised in keeping it in order. Now, there are many good reasons why this part of the store should be kept in perfect order, and I shall try to give a few here.

I. A neatly-kept cellar shows care and good management on the part of the proprietor.

II. It will prevent mistakes in refilling the shelfware and containers of the store.



Ground Plan of the Drug Store Cellar.

to be shown by discussion, but with such study as the writer has been able to give this problem, the advantages would seem to be decided and the disadvantages insignificant.

It is to be hoped that all those interested in the progress of pharmacy will give some consideration to this suggestion, and if it be deemed advisable, aid in securing its adoption.

Distinction Between Artificial and Natural Methyl Salicylate.

—For this purpose, although both are said to be of like therapeutic value, Adrian recommends a method, which is similar to the one advocated by Langkopf two years ago (*Pharm. Zig.* 1896, No. 42), and which is based on the presence of a terpene, Gaultherylene, in natural oil. The operation is carried on as follows: 5 Cc. each of salicylmethylester and concentrated sulphuric acid are carefully brought in contact so that they appear as separate layers, the acid lying below. The synthetic preparation assumes at most only a faint rose tint, and very little rise in temperature is noted. If the natural oil was employed, under the same conditions, considerable heat develops, and a deep rose color at once is noticed, this color rapidly changing to a wine red, and finally to a deep red brown (*Journ. de Pharm. et Chim.* 1898, vii. 9).

III. It gives work for "idle hands to do."

IV. It will prevent fires starting in rubbish left carelessly in a corner of the cellar.

V. It establishes methods of order, carefulness and precision in the apprentice, which are not forgotten in his future career as a druggist.

VI. A pharmacy, above all places, should answer to the rigid rule, "A place for everything, and everything in its place." Mistakes often occur from not observing this rule.

The early training which I received in this cellar, while the duties seemed laborious and difficult at the time, gave me an experience which has been of much value to me in my work since. The first impression usually lasts in memory, and I shall never forget the first time I saw this cellar. The proprietor said to me on this occasion: "This is to be your own private domain; see how orderly you can keep it. Study carefully the place for every bottle, box, barrel and demijon; try to keep each article in its proper place." I think this advice had more to do with my working hard to accomplish the end than any other one thing, and if more proprietors were to give kindly advice to the boy, and then give him credit for his work, they would get better service.

It will be well to remember that a