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DRUGGISTS AND CHEMISTS.

No other profession or pursuit is of such vital importance to the general public as the prescribing and dispensing of medicines. We have, as our readers well know, given careful attention to this subject, with the view of putting down quackery and protecting the people. There has been too little attention given these matters by the press and the public. We shall, in the future as in the past, take an active interest in correcting evils and encouraging whatever is legitimate and that tends to benefit the community, and place the professions on a stronger footing. We are pleased to note a tendency to improvement, and whatever aids the same will always receive our most hearty support. Our attention has been called to a report made to the German Government by the commission appointed to represent that nation at the American Centennial Exhibition in 1876, it having been instructed to investigate American educational institutions, manufacturing, etc. From each they selected a model as a basis for their report. It is well-known that the German Government has the most rigid laws regulating the practice of medicine and pharmacy, and has been foremost in encouraging a high standard of education in those branches. Therefore, it is not surprising to see so large a portion of the report of the German Commissioners devoted to the American drug trade. After visiting the drug establishments of the principal cities of the United States, they selected the house of McKesson & Robbins, of New York, as the most perfect in all departments, as also the one doing the most extensive drug business. They give a very detailed report of the manner of carrying on the operations in the several branches of this extensive establishment, and we regret that want of space prevents our publishing the entire report, for it is a document of much value to all Americans. We should feel proud of it, as we gain so much by comparison with the Old World.

McKesson & Robbins having been chosen (and so complimented) by such authority, we can do no better than select that firm as the model to which we would direct attention as an example worthy of imitation. From the foundation of this house, many years ago, up to the present time, its history is one of continued prosperity. To it we are indebted more than to any other for many improvements in pharmacy. We have ourselves taken particular pains to investigate and learn the secret of the success of the firm and the manner of conducting the details of their business, which we find so interesting that we are induced to give our readers a brief outline of them. It may be well to mention here one thing of primary importance, and that is their analytical and assay department, in which every drug is thoroughly assayed and analyzed before going into the laboratory, or being disposed of in crude form to other parties. They have a system of checking and registering the weights and measures of all potent drugs, whereby accuracy and safety are insured. No other wholesale drug-house in the country has such a department. It must be manifest to every one, the great importance of having the actual quality of all crude drugs ascertained accurately before being used in any form, and this can only be done in the manner described above. It is by reason of such accuracy that all the products of this house are sent abroad with the certainty of being of the strength called for in the Pharmacopoeia of the United States. This fact should be appreciated by physicians and druggists who look to the manufacturer to give them goods in all respects reliable. The members of the firm are not only business men, in the ordinary acceptance of the term, but they are those thoroughly educated in their profession, possessing vast experience, and taking just pride in the high reputation they have gained. They give their personal supervision to every department, in order to render secure beyond all peradventure the carrying out of their purpose of permitting nothing but perfection in their manufactures. They have kept up with the times, taken advantage of everything new, profited by every improvement. They have aimed to be at the head of their profession, and how their efforts have been crowned with success is best shown in the report above referred to. Fine chemicals and pharmaceutical preparations are a specialty with this house, and it is now manufacturing quinine on a large scale. Of late years they have introduced their Gelatine Coated Pills, which were devised in their laboratory, and which have become very popular with physicians and their patients. In this branch of their manufactures a great success has been achieved. The time has gone by for nauseous drugs to be administered as formerly. The taste of our people requires them in more agreeable shape, and in every case where medicine in pill form is indicated, the capsule or ovoid form of the gelatine coated pill is found to be acceptable, and they are readily swallowed by those to whom the round pill was excessively repugnant. By a device of this house the perfect division of the pill mass has been secured, so that every pill is absolutely certain to contain the actual amount as given in the formula. The vast importance of this can readily be seen by those who desire to produce certain results, and it insures safety when minute doses of active poisons are necessarily prescribed. In respect to the purchase of crude drugs, the same care is used as in the manufacturing department. Nothing but the very best that can be obtained is permitted to pass the person whose duty it is to inspect and assay all invoices received; and from these the best is selected for the laboratory. Hence all the Fluid Extracts, for which this house enjoys the very highest reputation, and which are exclusively used in many of the best hospitals in the country, are always found to be fully up to the official strength. With so much to recommend it, it cannot be wondered at that this house enjoys the foremost position among the wholesale druggists of the United States. We feel assured that the confidence reposed in it by those with whom it has business relations in the East will be appreciated and sustained by our people. It was the first to recognize the importance of our trade, and has always been ready to meet its requirements. They have expressed the intention of giving more direct attention to the wants of our section, and we feel certain that their efforts will be fully acknowledged by our physicians and druggists.

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