

their cigars and sodas, etc., a good place to get stamps and information, and the recognized meeting place for those who have a date.

In this way the energies of himself and his staff are sapped and wasted. The midnight oil might be burned to better advantage. The time might be spent in study or if in nothing better than in healthful recreation.

The younger men, were things changed, might better themselves in many ways, becoming not mere department clerks, but proficient professional men.

In European countries the pharmacist has no such conditions to face and why should it be here in this land of freedom.

There the pharmacist can have his business done in an eight or ten-hour day and have his Sundays practically to himself. It only needs a beginning, a regular pull together to make it so here. Cut at the root of the matter and work from the bottom and in time such a propaganda as we are now discussing will become simply a memory. Use it meantime as a stepping stone towards the ideal and realize that there is more in true pharmacy than what we are now getting out of it; there is the professional pride, enthusiasm, mental growth, and inspiration which comes with increase of knowledge, and the broader view of life and its problems which knowledge alone can give.

SUICIDE BY DRINKING A SOLUTION OF SALT.

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An editorial on "Poisoning from Common Salt" (The Journal, Oct. 5, 1912, p. 1297), speaks of the condition as a rare one. I wish to give my experience with several cases of fatal salt poisoning in China.

Throughout Chekiang Province, and probably in other provinces of China, the drinking of a saturated solution of salt is a common mode of committing suicide, and there is none more difficult to treat. In only one case did I succeed in securing recovery. Salt is taken for suicidal purposes sometimes in a common saturated solution made with water as the solvent, and sometimes in the brine from salted kraut.

Poisoning by salt usually presents a picture of high temperature and pulse, purging, vomiting and spasm. In the case in which I was successful in securing favorable results I washed the stomach with 2 quarts of a 1 percent. solution of silver nitrate, using a stomach-tube. The washings were chalky white at the start and were kept up till the solution coming away was just slightly white. Then warm tea was used till the stomach was thoroughly cleansed. Large amounts of tea were taken by mouth and a purge given. The patient was then removed to the hospital and made a good recovery. Although suicide is extremely common in this part of China the use of salt solution is not so common as suicide by other less painful methods. The amounts taken vary with the determination of the person taking it, but usually are from 1 to 3 rice bowlfuls—a pint to a pint and a half.—*Journ. A. M. A.*