

RESTRICTIONS IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF POISONS.*

 CARL T. BUEHLER, PH. G.

There has been so much written and said about restrictions in the distribution of poisons, and yet, we seem to be at the starting-point. I think it is the duty of every pharmacist to take an active part in the operation of our pharmacy laws, and if they are not satisfactory, then we should decide what we want and all put our shoulders to the wheel and work until we get a pharmacy law that is of mutual benefit to the pharmacist and to the public.

The following paper contains only an individual opinion regarding the poison law, but I will be pleased to hear remarks and suggestions.

I am in favor of two schedules:—Schedule A. and schedule B. Schedule A. to contain a list of habit-forming drugs and abortifacients, their sale to be restricted to physicians' prescriptions only, and in no case should these prescriptions be re-filled without an order from the physician.

The physician should not be allowed to dispense in his office or elsewhere, any drug, chemical or preparation enumerated in Schedule A., but in all cases he should be required to write a prescription for them; this prescription to be filled by a licensed pharmacist.

To prohibit the pharmacist from the sale of habit-forming and abortifacient drugs, and to permit the physician to dispense them, does not put a stop to the evil. There is no more justice in this, than there would be for a mother who has two sons, to teach one that it is wrong to dance, and to make a dancing-teacher of the other. This would not stop dancing. Neither will the illegitimate sale of habit-forming and abortifacient drugs be stopped as long as a tight rein is held on one person and a loose rein on the other. A "dope fiend," as he is called may go to a drug-store to get some "dope," and be refused; then he goes to a dispensing physician who accommodates him. Who does the public blame for this sale? I will leave this question for you to answer.

Any physician doing business as a pharmacist, should not be permitted to fill the prescription he writes for a drug, chemical, or preparation enumerated in Schedule A., but at all times some other licensed pharmacist should do the compounding and dispensing.

Schedule A.:—Hydrocyanic Acid, Opium, and all preparations of opium containing more than two grains to the ounce; Morphine, all salts of morphine and all preparations of morphine, containing more than one-third grain to the ounce, with the exception of Dover's Powder; Cocaine, all salts of cocaine and all preparations of cocaine; Codeine, all salts of codeine and all preparations of codeine containing more than one-half grain to the ounce; Chloral Hydrate, all preparations of chloral hydrate; Heroin, all salts of heroin and all preparations of heroin; Beta-Eucaine, Beta-Eucaine Lactate; Ergot, Veratrum, Cotton-Root, Savin and all its preparations.

Nothing in Schedule A. should interfere in the treatment of emergency cases

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by physicians or the selling of any drugs, chemicals, or preparation by a pharmacist to physicians, or the sale among manufacturers, wholesale druggists and pharmacists, or the sale of hypodermic tablets to dentists, graduate nurses or nurses in training.

Schedule B. to contain a list of poisons not enumerated in Schedule A.

Schedule B.:—Aconite, Belladonna, Colchicum, Conium, Nux Vomica, Cantharides, Digitalis, Henbane, Cannabis Indica, Stramonium, Gelsemium, and their pharmaceutical preparations. Arsenic and its preparations. Mercury and its salts with the exception of Calomel. Zinc Sulphate, Cyanide of Potash, Oil of Bitter Almond, Croton Oil, Chloroform, Ether, Carbolic Acid, Oxalic Acid, Strychnine and its salts, Elixir Iron, Quinine and Strychnine, Potassium Hydroxide, Sodium Hydroxide, Paris Green, Spirit of Nitroglycerin, Wood Alcohol, Denatured Alcohol, Mineral Acids, Iodine and its preparations, Lead Acetate, Potassium Permanganate, Cresol and all preparations of Cresol, Silver Nitrate, Tartar Emetic, Oil Mustard, Bromine, Formaldehyde Solution more than two *per cent.* in strength.

All drugs enumerated in Schedule B. must be recorded in a poison register similar to our present Missouri law requirements for Schedule A. An entry should be made, stating the date and time of sale, name and address of purchaser, male or female, name and quantity of poison sold, the purpose for which it is supposed to be used and the name of the dispenser. The container should be labeled with the name of the article, the word "Poison," and the name and address of business of the seller. Such book should always be open for inspection to proper authorities, and the register to be preserved for at least five years after it has been filled. Nothing in this schedule should apply to the dispensing of poisons in not unusual quantities or doses, by the pharmacist upon the prescription of a physician or upon the prescription of a dentist for mouth washes. Nothing in this schedule should be so construed as to interfere in the sale among manufacturers, wholesale druggists, pharmacists, physicians and dentists.

Should the physician be allowed to dispense articles enumerated in Schedule B., provided he keeps a record similar to that of the pharmacist? Or, should he be allowed to dispense these poisons as he is doing to-day, without keeping a record and without labeling the container, stating the name of the poison or directions for its use?

In my opinion, as long as physicians are permitted to dispense, a practicing physician should be permitted to dispense to his patients any article enumerated in Schedule B., either alone or in a compound, by first making an entry in a book kept for that purpose, stating the date, name and address of the patient, name of poison, alone or in compound, quantity dispensed, quantity in each dose, number of doses. The container should contain the name of patient, directions how to be used, name and address of physician.

Schedules A. and B. have reference to original and broken packages, sealed and unsealed packages.