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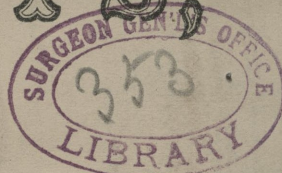
ADDRESS

OF THE

PHARMACEUTISTS,

TO

THE PEOPLE OF PHILADELPHIA.



The undersigned address you on behalf of the Pharmacutists of Philadelphia, convened agreeably to public notice July 18th, 1860, to consider and perfect a plan for the relief of themselves and their assistants, from unnecessary labor and confinement on the Sabbath.

The business of the Pharmaceutist involves a constant confinement to the store, required by no other pursuit, besides the ordinary motives of competition, we are under a supposed necessity to provide at the moment, for every real or imagined exigency of sickness; so that the dispensing stores in this city, are open on an average, from sixteen to seventeen hours daily throughout the entire year, besides being supplied with sleeping accommodations, from which the proprietor or a skilled assistant may be summoned at any time during the hours necessarily appropriated to sleep.

From this onerous confinement to business, there has heretofore been no cessation on the day set apart by the laws of the land, and the practice of nearly all Christian sects, for rest and religious observance. A few pharmacutists impelled by a sense of duty, have refused to attend to all calls except those of obvious necessity, and a few have absented themselves during the hours of public worship, but the common practice has been to open the stores during the whole day and evening, thus inviting calls of every description, and effectually blotting out the sabbath from the week of those compelled to be in attendance.

This most unreasonable custom has become almost universal, because its alleged necessity has not been questioned; recently, however, through the general awakening of discussion among pharmacutists, both in this country and Europe, a professional spirit has grown up which has subjected this and many other abuses to a thorough scrutiny. It has been ascertained that the excessive confinement now complained of, though common in many large cities, is not found necessary in smaller towns, where a few hours only are allowed on the sabbath for the purchase of necessary articles.

Few families in any community are without some of the more important medicines adapted to cases of sudden illness, and which are especially liable to be needed at night, while none in the cities are so isolated as to be unable to obtain them from a neighbor, when the pharmaceutical stores are closed.

Under the earnest conviction that it is a duty we owe to ourselves and assistants, to secure to the fullest extent compatible with the responsible duties of our profession, that immunity from business which almost the whole community enjoys on the Sabbath, and having obtained the written concurrence of so large a number of the leading pharmacutists of this city as to make the movement a general one, we have resolved to close our stores, after the first of August next, on the first day of

the week, except at the following hours, fixed with special reference to the known requirements of physicians and the public,

**In the morning until 9½ o'clock,
In the afternoon from 1 to 3 o'clock,
In the evening from 9 to 10 o'clock.**

We trust that this arrangement, which for a few months will necessarily partake of the nature of an experiment, will be acceptable to all concerned, and that it will be cordially entered into in good faith by pharmacutists generally.

In order to secure its success, and that no disadvantage may result to our customers, we request all to procure in advance those medicines they are most liable to require during the short intervals in which the stores will be closed, and as far as possible to accommodate themselves to the hours above indicated; and to remove still further the possible disadvantages of the arrangement and acquit ourselves of any desire to escape the necessary duties of our profession, we invite customers in cases of urgent necessity which are liable, though very rarely, to occur, to make application at the residence of their Pharmaceutist, or during the appropriate hours, to seek him, as is sometimes necessary in the case of Physicians, at the place of worship to which he resorts.

To medical practitioners we confidently appeal for encouragement in this reform. Their unremitting labors in a profession kindred in its objects to our own, make them acquainted with the peculiar difficulties and dangers which beset our laborious and confining pursuit, and we trust that they will willingly aid this effort to test the practicability of a measure designed to promote the physical and moral well being of those to whom are entrusted so important a department of the healing art.

Finally, fellow citizens, having based this movement mainly upon the grounds of justice and expediency, claiming only a share in that day of rest provided by the beneficent laws of our State for "the ease of creation," we cannot forget that there are many who place the obligation to abstain from unnecessary secular employment on this day, on the ground of paramount religious duty; and on behalf of these we claim a still higher consideration and willing acquiescence in the full exercise of conscientious convictions, which, regardless of theological differences, all are bound to respect.

Signed,

EDWARD PARRISH, No. 800 Arch street.
J. C. TURNPENNY & CO., 10th and Spruce sts.
FRED'K BROWN, Jr., 9th and Chesnut sts.
J. P. CURRAN, 6th and G. T. Avenue.
GEO. C. BOWER, 6th and Vine street.
WM. M. REILLY, cor. 2d and Wharton Sts.
HENRY MULLEN, Market and 33d streets.
WILSON H. PILE, Catharine and Pass. Av.

Philadelphia, July, 1860.

