

or 6 years at an accredited college of pharmacy, and spends a year of internship dispensing drugs. This knowledge of drugs is more fully and effectively utilized when the pharmacist has a greater role in the selection of the drug product to be dispensed than when that decision is preempted by the mechanism of a brand name. The pharmacist can also exert a greater influence and effect as the patient's purchasing agent when he is given a choice in selecting the particular product to be dispensed.

Senator NELSON. What role, precisely, do you think a pharmacist should play, and does your concept of this involve the question of the State antisubstitution legislation that has been passed which permits the pharmacist to exercise his discretion if a generic name is prescribed but takes away all of his discretion if a brand name is prescribed?

Dr. APPLE. Mr. Chairman, I will come to the latter part of your question in a moment, but to answer the first part of your question, some years ago I gave a speech and outlined a situation where I envisioned, if you will, the future of pharmacy in relationship to medicine being where the physician would make the diagnosis, would send his chart down to the pharmacist who would then confer with the physician and recommend to him the therapy to be used. I think we will become that sophisticated in the role that we play in medical care in the future.

Now, in the last 5 years, the profession's educational program has shifted in that direction. We already have at the University of Wisconsin, at the University of California, at Ohio State University, where pharmacy students are now being brought to the bedside, as well as practicing pharmacists employed in the hospital, as members of the staff making rounds with physicians, discussing the therapy, the regimen to be used, and utilizing their scientific education, if you will.

Senator NELSON. Isn't it correct that in a good hospital practice or in a group practice where there are pharmacists present they are in continual consultation both as to the establishment of the formulary, changes in the formulary, and the physician's day-to-day prescribing?

Dr. APPLE. In all the accredited hospitals that have a pharmacy and therapeutics committee the pharmacist is generally the secretary of that committee and plays the role of providing the impetus for its actions to be sure, in the kind of situation you describe, Senator.

But, as a matter of fact, I see a more increasing role than that.

The more we attend meetings and conferences on the shortage of medical manpower in this country, and the fact that our population explosion indicates that we can't build medical schools fast enough, we are going to have to find better utilization of these medical skills and here we sit with a profession that is ready to provide an ancillary service to a much greater degree than it is being utilized.

We think in the interest of society we ought to move ahead.

Mr. GORDON. Dr. Apple, you say the pharmacist can act as the patient's purchasing agent in selecting the particular product to be dispensed.

At present, the pharmacist generally adds a certain percentage markup to his cost when dispensing the drug to the patient. That is correct; is it not?

Dr. APPLE. The markup system is still the most prevalent in this country.