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# Training scheme for pharmacists under way

IN order to develop the practical skills of Egyptian pharmacists, the Pharmacologists' Association, in collaboration with a pharmaceutical company has recently begun a training programme in accord with the most advanced international systems.

According to Dr Mohie Ebeid, the Chairman of Pharmacologists Association, the programme involves 1,000 pharmacists, representing different medical sectors. These comprise the Ministry of Health, the universities and the Armed Forces hospitals.

The courses concern clinical pharmacy with the pharmacist becoming a member of a medical team treating the patient. The aim is to avoid mistakes occurring as a result of interaction among the medicines prescribed and also to guarantee the efficacy of the drugs.

The pharmacist also takes part, with the



**A TRAINING** programme to develop practical skills of pharmacists, according to Dr Mohie Ebeid (2nd R) after launching the programme recently.

physician, in diagnosis of the diseases.

Dr Ebeid pointed out that the programme covers five governorates, Cairo, Alexandria, Assiut, Mansoura and Zaqaziq and will run for two years. The pharmacists will then take an evaluation test to get a cer-

tificate from St. John's University in New York.

Dr Gouda Helal, the Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacology, Al-Azhar University, said that the programme includes, for the first time, training on the interactions of

different medicines that pharmacists prescribe.

The programme also includes the pharmacist's assistance to the patient in acquainting him or her with how to use the drug, the dose and the time to take the medicine.

Abdullah Abul Taleb, an expert at the World Health Organisation (WHO), stressed that the philosophy of the training programme was based on pharmaceutical practice, helping patients to achieve the best use of medicines. He added that elements in the programme cover advanced storing methods to the drugs.

A co-operation protocol will be signed by the Pharmacologists' Association, the Faculty of Pharmacology, Al-Azhar University, and one of the pharmaceutical companies to strengthen Egyptian pharmacists' skills, said Khaled Atef, a pharmaceutical company's representative.