



The Journal  
of the  
American Pharmaceutical  
Association

---

Volume I

JUNE, 1912

No. 6

---

Office of Publication, 79-89 North Third St., Columbus, Ohio.  
Subscription, \$3.00 per annum, within the United States. To Canada, \$3.35. To other foreign countries in Postal Union, \$3.50 per annum. Single copies, twenty-five cents.  
Entered at the Postoffice at Columbus, Ohio, as Second-Class matter.

---

Papers and communications for insertion in the JOURNAL should be sent to the Editor, James H. Beal, Scio, Ohio. Subscriptions should be sent to the Treasurer, H. M. Whelpley, 2342 Albion Place, St. Louis, Mo.

The Association does not accept the responsibility for the opinions of contributors. Offensive personalities must be avoided.

---

#### THE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION OF PHARMACISTS.

**D**R. WALTER A. BASTEDO, Professor of Pharmacology at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, at the joint meeting in 1910 of the New York Branch of the A. Ph. A. and the Medical Society of the county of New York, proposed that pharmacists should be professionally as well as legally certified, just as the better grades of milk are distinguished from those which barely meet legal requirements by being especially "certified."

Otto Raubenheimer took up and expanded this idea in his address as Chairman of the Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing, at the Richmond meeting in 1910, and upon this address the committee to which it was referred reported as follows:

"The unique suggestion of Dr. Bastedo regarding the certification of pharmacists, to which our chairman has called attention, should not be allowed to pass without action, and suggestion is made that a special committee be established by the Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing to consider the subject and report on the same at the next annual meeting."

Unfortunately, this important question was permitted to remain dormant until the joint meeting of the New York Branch of the A. Ph. A. and the Medical Society of the county of New York on May 7, of the present year, when it was revived by Mr. Raubenheimer in his discussion of the papers presented. He made the point that the prescribing physician knows the reliable pharmacists and pharmacies in his own neighborhood, but is entirely at sea when called from

home, and that there should be some method of certifying the pharmacies at which physicians can have absolute confidence that their prescriptions will be compounded correctly, and with the skill and care of the properly trained pharmacist whose business is conducted in accordance with medical and pharmaceutical ethics.

Following Mr. Raubenheimer's remarks, Dr. Jacob Diner made an eloquent appeal for the adoption of the suggestion made by Dr. Bastedo, and offered a motion, which was promptly and unanimously adopted, that there be a joint committee consisting of ten physicians from the Medical Society of the County of New York, and ten pharmacists from the New York Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association to consider the matter and, if found advisable, to report to their respective societies the requirements for the proper certification of pharmacists and pharmacies.

That modern pharmacy is somewhat professional and very largely commercial is clearly recognized, and the method of harmonizing and regulating these two factors has been a hackneyed subject with pharmaceutical essayists and editorial writers for a number of years.

Some who have not reckoned with existing conditions, have been inclined to view with contempt all of that portion of the everyday drug business that does not deal strictly with the compounding and dispensing of medicines and prescriptions and the furnishing of sick-room requisites, and have proposed that pharmacists should proceed to abandon all other portions of their business. In like manner some extremists on the other side have inclined to the view that the pharmacist should altogether divest himself of the so-called professional features of his calling, assume the position of a dealer in general merchandise, medical and otherwise, and make use of modern commercial methods of business exploitation.

Still a third class have considered both existing conditions and professional ideals. They have recognized that there are great possibilities in professional pharmacy for a certain rather small proportion of those who have been legally registered to conduct drug stores, but that for the larger proportion there is not sufficient opportunity for sufficient purely professional or technical work to afford a livelihood for the would-be professors thereof.

These have been inclined to propose that pharmacists who have the inclination and are properly situated should specialize along professional lines, and that the remainder should specialize in commercial directions.

That this latter proposition is not wholly without justification appears from the tendency during the past few years to recognize a distinction between strictly prescription pharmacists and general drug stores; and it may be that this proposition by Dr. Bastedo and the New York Branch will prove to be the thin edge of the entering wedge that shall make the cleavage between professional and commercial pharmacy clear and distinct.

In the opinion of the writer, no more important proposition has been brought up for some years, and it is suggested that members of the A. Ph. A. give it their careful consideration and freely express their opinions through the JOURNAL.

J. H. BEAL.