

EDITORIAL

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PROGRESSIVE PHARMACY.

RECENT developments indicate that we are entering on an era in pharmacy of closer relation between physicians, hospitals, nurses, pharmacists and the public. Many hospitals have been opened during recent years and more are contemplated; even the smaller towns are building hospitals, and plans for them are being thought out for country districts. There is specialization where formerly hospitals received all patients. In the development and perfection of the hospital idea pharmacists will have to be considered and a closer interrelation will be brought about, as above indicated. Team work of physicians and surgeons and the evolution of the hospital which provides service that cannot well be had in the home have given the public an economic idea which will have a larger part in shaping the practice of medicine than heretofore and will have its effect on pharmacy. It is therefore up to pharmacists, not only to see that hospital pharmacy becomes an important part in the service, but that the experience gained therein and thereby is utilized for the benefit of pharmacy. Bringing the hospital pharmacists into closer touch with the American Pharmaceutical Association is one of the big things accomplished at the New Orleans meeting; continuous, comprehensive and expanding plans should be formulated. Much was said and done, but this was initiatory; there are great possibilities, and the Association and hospital pharmacists can be mutually helpful.

In the House of Delegates, American Medical Association, 1919, Dr. Hubert Work said:

"Our public schools are teaching trades. Premedical training should assume direction there also. The necessary mental discipline may be obtained from studies essential to medicine, and time should not be occupied on branches studied only for a degree. Courses in the grades, high schools and colleges are so loosely knit that the first year in high school and college is largely wasted in fitting for the last three years. Could one year be safely clipped from the grades, one from the high school and one from the college course of those who would study medicine?"

"We have an inactive joint subcommittee with the National Educational Association which might well functionate on the pressing question of premedical education. A majority of common school boards in the United States have one or more physician members. This Association (The American Medical Association) can bring about through them new educational policies it may choose to inaugurate.

"It is evident that the relentless pressure of this Association (A. M. A.) for higher college and professional standards, with their time and financial exactions on the one side and the decrease in disease through preventive medicine on the other, are grinding between them students and physicians of average opportunities."

In former years quite a number of graduates in pharmacy followed their course in pharmacy by the study of medicine, and many of these have made splendid records, which in some degree at least speaks for the value of the training obtained in a college of pharmacy. The thought then comes that there are possibilities

of adjusting the preliminary educational requirements and the curriculum of a college of pharmacy, of a post-graduate or of a third or fourth year, so that these studies and training will be of equal or greater value than the premedical training now demanded by medical schools. The number who will avail themselves of such opportunities may be relatively small, but the curriculum can be so arranged that if it is the desire of the student to enter other activities he will be prepared to do so.

E. G. E.

THE INCREASING NUMBER OF DRUG STORES.

ONE reason for the increasing number of drug stores, both wholesale and retail, is the opportunity offered for dispensing alcoholics, including wine and beer.* The attitude of the drug trade on the question in general is gratifying. Very few, if any, druggists desire to fill and refill prescriptions for malt liquors in the quantities now permitted, neither can it be a welcome thought for the consumer that he may seemingly or actually be compelled to resort to prevarication in order to have a physician prescribe the "medicine" and, thereafter, have the prescription filled. Unfortunately, there are some engaged in the drug business, and others who hold diplomas from medical colleges, who are content to prostitute their callings to this trade for the profits which accrue.

Recently a druggist complained that on account of the increasing number of drug stores the volume of his business had decreased; however, a purchase of goods was delivered to this store on the day of this complaint, by a new-born wholesale "drug house." The conclusions that may be drawn from the foregoing are that the goods were purchased from the latter firm because they were priced somewhat lower than by other houses, and an establishment was aided in making up its minimum drug sales required under the law, to be designated wholesale druggists.¹ The inducement of lower prices is the effective one that will produce desired and quick results, the loss is figured in the overhead on liquor sales. The action on the part of the retailer does not evidence consistency and his good judgment may be questioned, for he is helping to build up a business that may disgrace him and his profession, just as the encouragement of retail stores established for dispensing liquor and beer will do. The line of thought may be carried further—the laymen who patronize such places, because conveniently located or sundry articles are sold there at attractive prices, are apt to reap reward of a kind not figured on in the saving of a few dollars—they may help build up a discreditable business in their neighborhood while undermining that of a representative citizen, one who desires to uphold the dignity of his profession, unwilling to be a reprehensible citizen and unprofessional man, and devocate an honored vocation. These are matters for serious thought.

The chairman of the Section on Education and Legislation, at the fiftieth anniversary of the American Pharmaceutical Association,² said: "Our profession places in the hands of the votary moral obligations of a high standard, and he whose

*Anti-beer bill has since become a law.

¹ The regulations require that the money value of the sales of liquor be not more than 10 percent of the total sales. A ratio of some kind for sales at retail might also be fixed and prove helpful to officials.

² Proceedings, A. Ph. A., 1902, p. 558.

character permits him to trifle with human life or health, or encourage the frailties of human nature, has no right in the ranks; therefore the qualifications of moral character expressed in the laws should be a matter of more important consideration than is frequently the case." And again: "The enforcement of laws of this character depends more upon the moral stamina of the dealer than the terror of the law."

There is no desire herein to discuss the value of alcoholics and malt beverages as medicinal agents but, unfortunately, the legalized traffic in them rests in the hands of physicians. In this comment attention is directed to the importance of keeping an undesirable class out of the drug business; a closer watchfulness over some of those engaging therein becomes a duty to the profession; the proposed regulations invite a condition by no means desired.

E. G. E.

COLLEGES OF PHARMACY AS PREMEDICAL SCHOOLS.*

BY HORATIO C. WOOD, JR., M.D.¹

Forty of the States in our Union demand as a prerequisite to the study of medicine one or more years of "college education," *i. e.*, a study of subjects beyond the high school standard. It is specified in many of these laws that this education must be acquired in a "college of arts and science." Although the wording of this section of the laws is sometimes ambiguous the manifest purpose of it is to exclude those schools where professional preparation has been the prime purpose. The University of Pennsylvania says: "Time spent in professional schools of law, dentistry, pharmacy, etc., will not be accepted as the equivalent of any part of the two years of college education."

I should like to have you consider with me for a little while this evening whether this discrimination against schools which teach pharmacy is a wise one.

REASONS FOR COLLEGE EDUCATION.

Before undertaking this investigation we should have a clear idea of why collegiate preparation is desirable for the study of medicine. As I see it there are three fundamental reasons.

First.—Weeding out the mentally incompetent. In an interesting article in the *Scientific Monthly* (January 1921) Professor Pillsbury, of the University of Michigan, points out that the modern educational system has a "very important function as a selecting agency, a means of separating the men of best intelligence from the deficient and mediocre. All are poured into the system at the bottom; the incapable are soon rejected or drop out after various grades and pass into the ranks of unskilled labor . . . the more intelligent who are to be clerical workers pass into the high school; the most intelligent enter the universities, whence they are selected for their professions." There can be no doubt that the amount of education a man can acquire is limited by his natural endowments. There are types of intellect, amply sufficient for the requirements of swinging a pick-axe or shoveling coal, to whom an asymmetric carbon atom would remain a mystery

* An address before the Philadelphia Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association, November meeting.

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