

BRANCHES OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION IN SCHOOLS OF PHARMACY.*

BY E. V. KYSER.

Two courses lie open to anyone presenting the function and the possibilities of any branch of our association: One is to theorize on the possibilities of the function of a branch; the other is to give an account of the actual operation of a branch in existence and to attempt a forecast of its future.

I ask your indulgence in giving an account of the activities of the University of North Carolina Branch of The American Pharmaceutical Association from the time of its inception, scarcely two years ago, until the present time, as well as the future possibilities of this organization.

There is a great need for the organization of some kind of pharmaceutical association or society in schools of pharmacy whereby students might enjoy social and educational fellowship. It was to the realization of this need on the part of the students and the faculty of the University of North Carolina that the present branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association at that seat of learning owes its existence.

Not only does a local branch offer all of the advantages, both social and educational, that can possibly be derived from any kind of association or society that may be organized in a school of pharmacy, but it also allows the enjoyment of many privileges that cannot be obtained elsewhere. Such a privilege would be the sense of security and pleasure in the consciousness of being an integral part of a national association devoted to the scientific and ethical development of one's profession. Moreover a local branch affords a very happy medium in which faculty and students may work together in the advancement of pharmacy. Also without the embarrassment of encroachment, it gives the faculty an opportunity to assist in the direction of the affairs of the branch where otherwise they might feel sensitive about giving advice in associations or societies organized by students as a part of student activities. Most student organizations require dues, for social and other purposes. Such dues would hardly be less than our annual fee of five dollars, which pays for membership in both the local and national organization, a year's subscription to the *JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION* and *YEAR BOOK*. These inducements are sufficiently attractive and well worth the fee exacted for membership. But they are not all—the Association also confers a certain prestige. Furthermore, the Association enables us to arrange programs that we could not arrange without its help.

The University of North Carolina Branch of The American Pharmaceutical Association was organized on October 7, 1922, in response to a request from the students of the School of Pharmacy for assistance in securing a pharmaceutical society that would permit greater activity in pharmaceutical advancement than they had previously enjoyed in their local society.

It began with sixteen charter members. In 1921, the year before its formation, there were only twenty-nine members of the American Pharmaceutical Association in the State of North Carolina. The membership in previous years had never exceeded thirty-two members in any one year. In the year beginning 1922 and

* Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing, A. Ph. A., Buffalo meeting, 1924.

ending in 1923 there were fifty-six members and in the year beginning 1923 and ending in 1924 the membership has been increased to one hundred and sixty-one. Of this total membership in the State, one hundred and thirty-one have become affiliated with the local branch. The membership in the Local Branch, includes seventy-one students who joined the Association through the Branch; twenty-nine who were members during 1921, and a number of those who were secured by the Association's holding its meeting in Asheville in 1923. The YEAR BOOK for the years 1922 and 1923 are not yet available and this total of membership necessarily includes some who have not retained their membership during the last two years.

In securing the membership of students we find the greatest difficulty among the first-year students who have not contemplated membership and as a consequence they have given no consideration to this fee in their school budget. Once in school it is oftentimes very difficult for some students to secure this additional amount required for membership. In the past two years a very large majority of the senior classes finally became members. This year we have adopted a card invitation, to become a member of the branch, which is mailed to those who have registered for the Junior courses. We believe that as a result of this invitation, that many more Junior students will be financially prepared to become members upon entering school this year. A copy of this invitation is reproduced here.

The University of North Carolina Branch
of The
American Pharmaceutical Association
Heartily welcomes you
to
The University
and
Cordially invites you
to
Become a member
of The
University Branch of the A. Ph. A.

The reverse side of the card bears the following information:

"The University of North Carolina Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association is affiliated with the National Association and its purpose is to afford a medium for pharmaceutical advancement. One or more meetings are held each month at which both social and educational programs are enjoyed. Membership in the Local Branch also includes membership in the National Association and enjoyment of all its privileges, including a year's subscription to the JOURNAL and a copy of the YEAR BOOK. The annual fee is \$5.00 for membership in both the National Association and the U. N. C. Branch."

We have used many other methods of stimulating membership by inaugurating direct contests among teams appointed for the purpose of securing new members. These drives for membership are usually started just before some unusual social or special meeting that has stimulated interest in the branch. Each year we send out a letter, with a return card, to members of the American Pharmaceutical Association in the State asking them to become affiliated with the Local Branch; we require no additional fee for its support. We also send an invitation to all of the members of the Association in the state requesting their presence at the annual out-

ing and fishing trip which is given complimentary to members of the Local Branch by Prof. E. V. Howell, Dean of the School of Pharmacy. This occasion is one that is greatly enjoyed, and it proves to be an added inducement for greater activity and fellowship among the members.

During the two years that we have been organized we have had sixteen regular meetings other than those held for social and business purposes. There has been presented before the members a total of twenty-six addresses, lectures, and papers on subjects of scientific and educational interest. Fifteen of these have been lectures which were illustrated with lantern slides, and eight of these have been presented by persons who came from without the state. Student members have presented a total of eleven subjects, and five of these were illustrated with lantern slides.

In the arrangement of programs we have been fortunate in securing the cordial coöperation of a number of the large pharmaceutical manufacturers, who have been kind enough to send us lecturers on subjects of timely interest. This coöperation, which was, no doubt, partially due to our affiliation with the American Pharmaceutical Association, has been of immeasurable benefit to the members of our Association and to pharmacy as a profession in the state.

We have been accorded every consideration by the newspapers of the state in announcing our programs and in giving publicity to our meetings. Seven of the National pharmaceutical publications also have kindly given space for the reports of our meetings. This publicity is just and justifiable inasmuch as the branch is in no small measure a contributing factor towards training ethical pharmacists who will in the future practice their profession in the state. It is to them that the state must look for the conservation of public health and useful citizenship.

The effectiveness of the publicity that is given to our programs by the press of the State may well be illustrated by the attendance at our meetings. At one of our meetings this year we had what was estimated to have been the largest audience ever to attend a scientific lecture at the University. It was gratifying to see so large a number of physicians who had come from many sections of the state to attend this lecture—some from a distance of 200 miles.

In order to keep the members of the branch in the state informed of the activities of the branch, and also to assist the American Pharmaceutical Association in maintaining membership, as well as the collection of funds for the Headquarters Building, we have prepared the card that is reproduced below.

The University of North Carolina Branch
of the
American Pharmaceutical Association
Respectfully calls your attention to

Program _____
Renewal of Membership _____
Pledge for A. Ph. A. Building Fund _____
Date Effective _____

Secretary.

It is our purpose to conduct our local branch with ever increasing forcibleness in the direction of promoting the ethical practice of pharmacy as a profession. We shall enlarge our programs and increase our activities to meet the needs of our

existence. It is hoped that the next year will find us equipped with social rooms where we may meet informally and discuss topics of pharmaceutical interest, and in which we may be favored with weekly lectures by members of the faculty from other departments of the University.

We believe that the mind of the student, if directed rightly in regard to his profession, will retain and practice that which we instill. It is the ideal of the Local Branch to continue in its efforts for the advancement of pharmacy as a profession until every pharmacist in the state of North Carolina is a member, and until every member practices his profession in accordance with the principles contained in the Code of Ethics of The American Pharmaceutical Association.

EXAMINATIONS AND THE FUNDAMENTALS.*

BY J. W. STURMER.

A few years ago a set of examination questions used by Thomas Edison to pick promising candidates for his employ was given to the press. Forthwith it became the subject of a lively discussion in which professional educators, journalists, humorists, musical comedy artists, and the members of the Whittlers' Club from Rosin Center, took lively part. What, indeed, more vulnerable to criticism than a set of examination questions? The callowest freshman does not hesitate to find fault with the questions of the most venerable professor;—and Edison soon found himself assailed from every quarter.

To silence his numerous critics, he finally said that the sole purpose of his examination was to pick the candidate with a good memory. But memory, as everybody knows, cannot function until there is something to remember. And college men proved that a large portion of the questions covered ground outside the purlieu of a conventional college education. It appeared that the same could be said about school and high school, all of which is interesting, for it proves that Edison had inadvertently tested for something besides memory. He had picked the candidates with the inclination and the ability to gather knowledge from many sources—men of alertness, with wide-spread interests—in short, the "live ones," and of good memory.

A pharmacy board examination is devised to serve an entirely different purpose, namely the exclusion from registration of those candidates who may not reasonably be expected to function as safe and competent practitioners of pharmacy. Edison's test as it was conducted, would set the bars too high. His test as he viewed it—a mere memory test—would be inadequate, for a pharmacist must not only have knowledge, but must also know how to use it. He must know facts—yes, and likewise principles. Of the latter he must have clear understanding so that he may apply them, for in practice there arises an infinite variety of problems—too many to be memorized, and which can be solved only by the application of what, for want of a better word, we call theory.

Let us, however, not belittle the value of memory, or of memorized knowledge. When we say we know, we mean that our memory holds in store the facts, con-

* Read before Joint Session of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy and American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties, Buffalo meeting, 1924.