

# THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF PHARMACEUTICAL FACULTIES

("The members of the teaching profession and all interested in pharmaceutical education recognize that Dean Wulling of the University of Minnesota stands in the foreground of the movement for better pharmaceutical training, therefore you will read with pleasure his article appearing in the Conference Section of this number of the JOURNAL."—C. B. JORDAN, Editor.)

## CHARACTER TESTS FOR ENTRANTS UPON PHARMACY.

BY FREDERICK J. WULLING.

The recent disclosures of the increased activity of the diploma mills is only an additional evidence that there are too many unscrupulous persons in pharmacy. There may not be more proportionately than in other professions or callings but, however that may be, there are too many for pharmacy and we must think not only of a present remedy but also of prevention in favor of the future.

The majority of right-thinking pharmacists have been agreed for some time that pharmacy needs higher standards of education, practice and conduct, and fairly effective steps have been taken toward securing for the public a reasonably safe though by no means ideal pharmaceutical service. *As yet there are no expressed or defined standards of character.* Of course as educational standards have been increased, it is fair to imply that moral and character standards have increased because, everything else being equal, it is undisputed that education brings a degree of culture and refinement that tends toward character improvement and therefore towards improvement in conduct. If pharmaceutical educational standards were much higher, pharmacy would no doubt be much better off culturally and morally. While ascending educational requirements increase the recognition of moral responsibilities in an accelerating degree, it is probably true that no degree of education can be required or attained which will absolutely insure moral and character perfection. It is the business and the duty of pharmacists collectively to do everything possible toward the realization of a greater degree of progress toward that perfection. There are certain temptations, inherent in the practice of pharmacy, to overcome which a strong moral character is required. As every one knows, these temptations have recently been increased very greatly and have brought many unscrupulous and parasitic persons into the calling. That is, the new temptations appeal directly to the less morally developed minds and these bring disrepute to a calling made up normally of ethical minds capable of withstanding the temptations. Something in addition to our educational requirements should be exacted of entrants to pharmacy, to insure the future against the degrading influence of the morally oblique. We all ought to put our minds to work upon the question what additional requirements should be fixed. While I have not thought the matter out fully, it seems to me that it would be reasonable and effective to fix a *character standard* for those seeking admission to the ranks. It ought not to be difficult to agree upon such a standard. A start already has been made by the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties at the suggestion of its 1923 President, Dean LaWall, in recommending to its members the requirement on part of new students of a pledge to faithfully observe and be governed by the Code of