

# THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES OF PHARMACY

## SOME IMPORTANT CHANGES IN THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE.

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Last May it was a quarter of a century since the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties was organized at Richmond, Virginia. During the twenty-five years of its existence the Conference has been a most important factor in advancing pharmaceutical education and the profession of pharmacy in this country. It has grown steadily in size and influence. Approximately fifty colleges are to-day listed as members of the Conference, all striving to maintain such educational standards as will more adequately meet the demands of our rapidly advancing civilization.

Since the organization of the Conference at Richmond in 1900, changes have been repeatedly made in the requirements for admission to and graduation from the colleges holding membership in it. Hence, from time to time the Constitution and By-Laws were changed and amended without, in most instances, studying the effect of these revisions upon the Constitution and By-Laws as a whole. Then, too, the fact that a new era in pharmaceutical education was to begin with the opening of our colleges in the fall of 1925, due to the minimum three-year curriculum becoming effective, made it imperative that the Constitution and By-Laws be revised to meet these changed conditions. Accordingly, during the past year, the chairman of the executive committee, Dean C. B. Jordan, and the secretary, Miss Zada Cooper, gave much time and thought to this problem and at the Des Moines meeting recommended the adoption of the revised Constitution and By-Laws. After a thorough consideration by the executive committee and a very thoughtful discussion by the Conference as a whole they were adopted. Following the established practice, the new Constitution and By-Laws will be printed in full in the Proceedings of the meeting.

The purpose of this paper is to call attention to several of the more important changes and where deemed necessary to emphasize their significance. The following changes and provisions will be discussed:

1. The change in the name to the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy should need no defense. While the term "Conference" may have properly characterized the annual discussions during the early years immediately following the organization meeting in 1900, it was no longer applicable for the organization has steadily changed from one of a possibly temporary character, often implied by the use of the term "conference," to one of undoubted permanence. Furthermore, the old name was not self-explanatory. Educators and others not familiar with the organization were commonly at a loss to form, without explanation, a correct idea of its nature and scope. On the other hand, the new name is self-explanatory. It is at once understood that the organization must be similar in character to those which are well known in the other professions—law, medicine, dentistry—as well as to those of educational institutions in general.

2. In order to insure the Association being made up of institutions of a strictly educational character, there was added to the article of the By-Laws dealing with the qualifications for membership the following provision:

"No college of pharmacy that is conducted for gain shall be eligible for membership in the Association."

The wisdom of this limitation cannot be doubted.

3. Provision was made for a new class of members, the institutions represented in the Association now being classified as active and associate members in accordance with the following:

"For active membership, the college shall have been in continuous operation for at least five years prior to the date of application for membership in the Association.

"A college recently organized within a well established institution of higher learning may become an associate member, said associate membership to continue until the institution shall meet the time requirement for active membership. Associate members must meet all requirements for active membership except the time requirement. All the privileges enjoyed by active members shall be extended to associate members except the privilege of voting and of attending executive sessions."

The creation of the associate membership is a splendid forward step. It will permit worthy institutions which cannot meet the time requirement to receive the benefit of affiliation with the Association during the period which must elapse before they can qualify for active membership. The College of Pharmacy of the University of Florida and the Department of Pharmacy of the municipal College of the City of Detroit were admitted to associate membership. Unquestionably the status of pharmacy within these institutions has already been greatly strengthened by this action.

4. Inasmuch as the minimum course is now three years in length, the requirements for graduation were restated as follows:

"The college shall require of each candidate for graduation not less than 2250 hours of instruction, of which at least 1000 hours shall consist of lectures and recitations, such work to be given in a period of not less than three full college years of at least thirty weeks each. At least two months must elapse between the first and second years and between the second and third years."

5. In order to permit institutions with well-established summer sessions to continue to give or to introduce instruction in pharmacy during the summer months, there was added to the above requirement the following clause:

"Any college that conducts a regularly organized summer session may be permitted, with the approval of the Executive Committee, to shorten this time in years, provided all the required hours are completed."

The character of the instruction in pharmacy when given as a part of a regular summer session is usually of a higher order than that given during the regular session for the reason that while laboratory, library and other facilities remain the same the classes are much smaller and hence the supervision better. Furthermore, the student usually concentrates his efforts on fewer subjects. This action is very timely and in accord with the trend of modern education.

6. Until the minimum three-year course is in full operation, that is, until July 1, 1927, there must of necessity be a period of transition. Hence, provision

must be made to adjust our older requirements for graduation to the new ones stated above. This has been accomplished in the following manner:

"Prior to July 1, 1927, member-colleges are permitted to complete their two-year courses under the following conditions:

"First. The institution shall require of each candidate for graduation not less than 1500 hours of instruction, of which at least 500 shall consist of lectures and recitations, such work to be given in a period of two full college years of not less than thirty weeks each and at least two months should elapse between these two years. An hour of laboratory work performed under the immediate direction and oversight of an instructor shall count as the equivalent of an hour of lecture or recitation. The minimum number of hours per week shall be twenty-four or 720 hours per school year of thirty weeks.

"Second. No beginning student shall be permitted to enter upon a two-year course in any member-college after July 1, 1925, and no member-college shall grant a degree for the completion of a two-year course after July 1, 1927."

7. The requirements for the various degrees were restated as follows:

"The degree of Graduate in Pharmacy (Ph.G.) shall be given for the minimum three-year course of 2250 hours.

"The degree of Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy (B.S. in Phar.) may be given upon the completion of not less than a four-year course, it being understood that this degree shall be for work that will admit to full standing in the graduate school of any recognized university.

"The degree of Master of Science in Pharmacy (M.S. in Phar.) may be given upon the completion of not less than one year of graduate work. Graduate work shall be interpreted to mean work done after the completion of the requirements for the baccalaureate degree.

"The degree of Doctor of Pharmacy (Phar.D.) may be given upon the completion of not less than three years of graduate work."

From the above it is obvious that the Association has decreed that the degree to be conferred upon the completion of a minimum three-year course of 2250 hours shall be that of Graduate in Pharmacy (Ph.G.) thereby bringing to an end a discussion that has been carried on for several years.

8. Due to the present comparatively long membership list of the Association and to insure a sufficiently large number of member-colleges being represented at the annual meetings a quorum shall hereafter consist of delegates from twenty-five institutions which are active members of the Association. This requirement was advanced from ten to twenty-five.

The beginning of a new era in pharmaceutical education at this time was assured by the actions taken by the Conference in 1917 placing the requirement for admission to our colleges on the basis of high-school graduation, and again in 1920 whereby the three-year course was made the minimum requirement for graduation after July 1, 1927. These actions are now reinforced strongly by the decisive conclusions reached by Dr. W. W. Charters in his discriminating study of the status and function of the pharmacist. In making possible this new era for the profession of pharmacy generally, the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties has been a potent factor. It is now the task of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy to carry forward this splendid work.