

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF PHARMACEUTICAL FACULTIES

(The meagre salaries paid to teachers of our professions is reflected in the small number that are entering this important field of service. Miss Cooper's article on "The Need for Teachers" very well sets forth this situation. It is one that should receive careful consideration of all who are interested in the future welfare of our profession.—C. B. JORDAN, Editor.)

THE NEED FOR TEACHERS.

BY ZADA M. COOPER.

More and more as the weeks go by, I am impressed with pharmacy's need for teachers, for more and better teachers. This is probably something that the deans of most colleges know very well, because they have experienced difficulty in getting teachers and because they frequently have requests from other college heads. Sometimes they are able to recommend some one but oftener than not there is no one to recommend.

Since taking over the secretaryship of the Conference I have had quite a number of requests and only in a very few instances have I been able to be of any assistance. Several Conference schools are getting on right now with too few instructors and still others with instructors possessed of less training and experience than they desire.

It seems to point to an insufficient proportion of those who are studying pharmacy going into teaching. It is a natural consequence because some other line of work where the remuneration is greater is more attractive. Teaching may continue to be less attractive for the same reason but two things seem obvious: The actual shortage of teachers and the necessity of more adequate salaries should be brought to the attention of administrative bodies. Then those who are teaching now should do what they can to direct those students, who are endowed by nature with the qualities which a teacher needs, into this branch of work. That is a difficult task perhaps and mistakes are unavoidable, but it is none the less a duty. When we find students who seem to have the necessary qualities, they should be urged to go forward with their training with that end in view. If I were asked to enumerate the qualities necessary for a teacher I should make a miserable failure. However we all have some very definite conceptions about them. Really good teachers are after all a good deal like poets—they are born, not made. In character, they should be above reproach. There should be dignity, poise, sound judgment, ability to control temper. In judging whether they have ability to impart knowledge, the ability to express ideas plainly and tersely, both in speaking and writing, is important. Language need not be elegant or polished, but it must be understandable.

Given such an individual he should be urged to get adequate training. I shall not attempt to define what constitutes adequate training. Suffice it to say that most of the requests for teachers say at least the B.S. degree is desired.

It is apparent that colleges are not turning out a sufficient number of people with B.S. degrees to supply the demand for laboratory workers and teachers. As to the line of special study they should pursue, in general, it ought to be the