

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

thing in which they are most interested. The demand seems to be in about the following order: Pharmacy, pharmacology, pharmacognosy, materia medica, with pharmacy much in excess of the others. Not once, I believe, has there been a request for any one to teach chemistry. The number of chemistry teachers is adequate or the requests for them go through other channels, possibly both.

One other thought comes up in connection with the entire question. Would it be possible for the Conference to serve in some way as a clearing-house? Would it help those desiring positions as teachers to be able to furnish the necessary details about their equipment to some Conference official? Would it help the deans who need teachers to make their wants known to the same official? I have no idea how much work this would entail, whether it would be necessary to create a new office or, even, whether it would be a good thing. I only know that some have expressed themselves as believing that the Conference should attempt something of the sort. Only the deans of the Conference colleges are competent to answer these questions.

Let us all who are interested in the progress of pharmaceutical education realize that it is for us to do what we can, to see to it that we train not only retail pharmacists, manufacturers, analysts and all the others that we have been training, but teachers as well.

NEW RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR PHARMACY TO BENEFIT PUBLIC.

BY E. L. NEWCOMB.*

Since the earliest times pharmacists have rendered to the public valuable service in the discovery and improvement of medicines.

In 1776 Peter J. A. Daries, a pharmacist, discovered that the drug Belladonna caused dilation of the pupil of the eye. Ever since preparations of this drug have been extensively used by physicians, surgeons and optometrists with the unquestionable result that eyesight has been saved to thousands upon thousands of people.

In 1816 Friederich W. A. Sertürner, pharmacist of Eimbeck in Hanover, enriched science with the discovery of morphine. This drug has undoubtedly relieved more human suffering than any other medicinal agent. It is true that morphine has been grossly misused. Government and other statistics show that over 99% of the misuse of morphine is by others than physicians or pharmacists. The members of these professions are primarily responsible for our present strict laws prohibiting the improper use of morphine and this in view of the fact that these laws place onerous burdens upon pharmacists and physicians.

For over fifty years the pharmacists of the United States have provided scientific standards so as to supply pure, unadulterated drugs and medicines for the public. To-day physicians and the public at large have medicines the standards for which are not equalled in any other country.

In 1906 the United States Government accepted these drug standards prepared by pharmacists as the legal standards for enforcement of the Food and Drugs Act. At this time a committee of over thirty pharmacists of the United States give gratuitously of their time and scientific knowledge to keep these standards abreast with modern research.

The pharmaceutical interests of the United States are now engaged in the work of establishing a great central *Headquarters Building*. One of the chief features of this institution will be a complete scientific research laboratory for the study of drugs and medicines.

The completion and operation of this new institution will bring many advantages to pharmacy. To the public it will bring the results of new research for the lasting benefit of all mankind.

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