

# THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF PHARMACEUTICAL FACULTIES

("During the war our attention was directed to the Intelligence Tests that were used in connection with our army. Psychologists believe in the value of the Intelligence Tests, and other educators are willing to admit that there is something in them. The Dean of every college of pharmacy is well aware of the fact that too great a percentage of students who enter pharmacy fail to complete their work successfully. For every student who fails there is considerable waste both for the institution and the student. This waste should be reduced to the minimum by the reduction of the percentage of failing students.

"The following article by Dean Wulling points out a way to this accomplishment, and deserves the thoughtful consideration of our educators."— C. B. JORDAN, *Editor.*)

## INTELLIGENCE TESTS IN HIGH SCHOOLS.

BY FREDERICK J. WULLING.

In a previous paper I referred to the experiments with intelligence tests made in the College of Science, Literature and the Arts of the University of Minnesota. Other institutions of higher learning have given these tests some attention and it seems that their value is being established as the superior one among a number of ways of determining students' fitness for scholastic work. If these tests are of value in colleges and universities, they ought to be no less valuable in secondary and grade schools. That at least is the position the Minneapolis high-school authorities are taking who are now entering upon an experiment with the Arts College of the University of Minnesota to develop a system whereby the capacity of pupils for higher scholastic work may be forecast while the pupils are still in high school. Dean J. B. Johnston of the Arts College submitted, at a meeting of high-school principals, a proposal to try out a system of intelligence tests designed to show the mental ability of each high school student and to save much time and tax-payers' money in those cases where students cannot possibly go on successfully with higher work, but where that fact would otherwise be discovered only after much delay and cost in the higher schools. Information resulting from the tests will be given only to the respective pupils and their parents. The custom followed at the University, where results of the ability tests are kept in confidence, will be followed by the high schools.

Most of the colleges of pharmacy derive their students from the high schools and soon all Conference schools will be upon the high-school graduation entrance requirement basis. That will be a collective forward step, but in the light of the experience of colleges that have exacted the high-school graduation requirements for a long time, this step should be quickly followed by one which should be based upon an intelligent and reasonable selection of students. The selection would necessarily have to be based upon a number of things, among them, general fitness, character and mental qualification and potentiality.

In a school of pharmacy with which I am intimately familiar and whose entrance requirements for its minimum course of three years are more than merely high-school graduation and whose student body compares favorably with that of other colleges in the fields of pharmacy, dentistry, arts, engineering, etc., an annual average of between twenty-five to thirty per cent. fails to show or to develop