

# THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF PHARMACEUTICAL FACULTIES

(Dr. W. H. Zeigler is right when he says that we are giving too much of Conference time to routine business and not enough to the important subject of teaching. I hope that the members of the Conference will accept his suggestions and assist in preparing programs for the sectional meetings.—C. B. JORDAN, Editor.)

## TO THE MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF PHARMACEUTICAL FACULTIES.

As the time draws near for the convening of the twenty-sixth Session of the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties, we should begin to make our plans, not only to be promptly on hand, but to carry something with us that will be of interest to the other members of the Conference. What are you doing to assist in making this meeting the most successful one we have ever had? It has always been my opinion that we should devote less time to routine matters and more time to the reading and discussion of papers on teaching methods. As a conference of teachers, the prime object of our meetings should be to improve our curriculum.

For some time I have been corresponding with members of the Conference, relative to a plan that I believe would materially aid us in solving some of our problems. Briefly, the plan I wish to suggest is that we devote a morning and afternoon session of the first day to group conferences. Last year I had the pleasure of attending the Conference on Practical Pharmacy, which was held Thursday and Friday of the week preceding the meeting of the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties. All who attended acknowledged that they were amply rewarded for the trouble and expense incurred. The Botany and Pharmacognosy group is already organized, and I feel certain that the teachers of chemistry, pharmacy and materia medica would also welcome a conference.

Now that we are on the eve of our new three-year course, every teacher will be interested in knowing how the others will divide up their subjects; this alone would supply us with material for at least one of the sessions. There are hundreds of other topics that could be discussed "around the table." Some of the members of the Conference with whom I have discussed this plan are of the opinion that since materia medica is so closely allied to botany and pharmacy, it should be continued as a part of that group; others, that since materia medica, as such, is becoming obsolete, the title of that section should be Physiology, Pharmacology and Physiological Standardization. Personally, I believe the subject as taught in most of the schools to-day consists largely of the physiological action, therapeutics and toxicology; the source, history, character and constituents of the drug being stressed in the course of Pharmacognosy. Undoubtedly, there is too much time lost in repetition; correlation of our subjects is one of the topics that could be discussed to advantage. It has also been suggested that Practical Pharmacy and Chemistry be separated from theoretical, and that a separate group be created for the bio-assayists and physiologists.

I will welcome suggestions from the Conference members. If time permitted, I would like to present to each member the following questionnaire:

1. Do you approve of having a symposium on the teaching of major subjects in the Pharmacy course?
2. What subjects should be included?
3. How do you, individual teachers of the Conference, want the organization conducted?
4. What does the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties not do, that could be of aid to you in solving your problems?

The main object of our organization is to promote pharmaceutical education. We have progressed very rapidly along certain lines in the past few years, but our most urgent need, at present, is to improve our teaching methods.

If you have time, send me your answers to the above questionnaire.

W. H. ZEIGLER.

---

(Pharmaceutical educators and retail pharmacists have been wondering how the program of the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties will be received, especially that part of the program requiring a minimum three-year course beginning September, 1925. Professor Zada M. Cooper, Secretary of the Conference, is in a position to secure information regarding the acceptance of this forward step on the part of the Conference. The following article by Miss Cooper shows the wisdom of the pharmaceutical educators in taking this far-reaching, forward step at this time.—C. B. JORDAN, Editor.)

### THE THREE-YEAR COURSE.

BY ZADA M. COOPER.

The things that have been said about a minimum three-year course since the Conference, in 1920, voted to put it into operation with the beginning of the year 1925, would make a large volume. There is nothing to be gained now by enumerating the arguments that have been presented for or against the change. Suffice it to say that the ten schools that have already started on the new program are expressing no regrets. To make such an advance when other schools were continuing on the two-year plan was a bit of pioneering that took courage.

Mention should be made of the splendid way in which several editors have championed the course. It was to be expected that the Association's own Journal would be for it but other Journals whose subscribers are chiefly retailers have put themselves on the side of its advocates as well.

I have been impressed with the fact that the number of colleges of pharmacy in the United States is on the increase. There may be several reasons for this but there is one thought that recurs to me whenever I think about it. If there is to be the enormous falling off in enrollment that has been predicted this cannot be a good time for a new college to open. Let us look at a few figures. I am well aware that one can prove anything by statistics properly juggled. So another individual analyzing the same situation might reach quite different conclusions but I am at a loss to see how.

During the ten years between 1914 and 1924 there was a net loss in number of schools of about twelve. Twelve were discontinued. There were two instances of two schools merging, and there were one or two new ones. That reduction seemed a perfectly natural condition of the times and the remaining schools could perfectly well care for all who wished to study pharmacy, at least with a little