

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES OF PHARMACY

(Every Dean of Pharmacy in the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy is interested in the Fairchild Scholarship and in the examination that is used to select the winner. The following analysis by Dean Rudd is worthy of careful thought. This section of the JOURNAL is open to anyone who cares to discuss this important subject, and I hope that you will avail yourselves of the opportunity.—C. B. JORDAN, *Editor*.)

THE FAIRCHILD SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATIONS.

BY WORTLEY F. RUDD.*

The annual reports of The Fairchild Scholarship Committee have always interested me greatly. So impressed have I been at the pitiful showing made by the students taking these examinations that I have studied the reports from 1921 to 1925 inclusive rather closely and am submitting herewith some data that has forced me to one of two conclusions, either the examinations are not at all representative or our teaching is sadly in need of reform. This of course is predicated on the assumption that the students taking these examinations represent at least the upper fourth of the freshman class. In my own school we select the best men we have to take the examinations.

The following table brings out the points upon which comment is justified:

Year.	No. schools represented.	No. candidates.	Average grade by subjects.				General average.
			Chemistry.	Pharmacy.	Botany and Materia Medica.	Arithmetic.	
1921	19	31	71.80	39.50	58.50	68.60	64.60
1922	10	14	64.64	74.21	72.57	66.64	70.00
1923	16	24	71.50	80.00	70.00	81.00	75.60
1924	16	24	68.41	64.12	68.27	78.87	70.27
1925	20	33	67.00	77.00	66.00	66.00	70.00
Total		126	68.67	70.96	67.06	72.02	70.00

It is apparent from the above figures that over a five-year period 126 candidates have been unable to average a pass mark (75) on any subject and that the general average on all subjects is only 70. In no year have more than 20 schools had candidates although the prize is worth \$300. In no year have the candidates averaged a pass in chemistry or materia medica, 71.8 being the highest in 1921 in chemistry and 72.57 the highest in materia medica in 1922. In two years, 1923 and 1925, pharmacy has averaged more than a pass. In 1923 and 1924 arithmetic averaged better than a pass. In 1921 the average in pharmacy was only 59.5.

Chairman E. G. Eberle has, I know, done everything in his power to make these examinations representative but I believe the whole matter should have careful review at the next joint session of the boards and the college association. A symposium might be arranged that should lead far into the whole problem of proper teaching. This is certainly our chief concern.

* Medical College of Virginia.