

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOARDS OF PHARMACY

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AN INTERESTING AND VALUABLE STATE BOARD REPORT.

(MICHIGAN.)

The annual report of the activities of the Michigan Board of Pharmacy (for fiscal year ending June 30, 1926) has just been received, stating that, during the year, 481 candidates took the examinations for full registration and 94 were successful; 397 took the assistant examination and 243 were successful in obtaining assistant's certificate. Fifty-five candidates were admitted by reciprocity, and 35 Michigan pharmacists reciprocated with other states; 2268 licensed drug stores are registered with the state.

A State Drug Laboratory is maintained at which drugs taken by inspectors from wholesalers, manufacturers and retail stores are tested as to their conformity with the required standards. The résumé of the findings on various drugs tested by M. M. Woodward, State Drug Analyst, is, we believe, of general interest:

It is stated that analyses of potent tinctures bear out previous warnings that tinctures should not be made up from fluidextracts. The account explains that while reports of analyses have shown a very low percentage of preparations up to standard, this must not be considered a true average condition, for the reason that samples taken by inspectors are largely from sources where complaints have arisen as to their quality or reliability. In fact, the report goes on to say, very satisfactory improvement has been noted over last year's report with one exception—tincture of aconite.

With reference to aconite, the report states that while chemical assays of samples of this drug may show it to be up to standard, the activity of the drug as demonstrated by the present official biological assay is often far below standard.

There is reason to believe, therefore, the report continues, that the "unprecedented number of sub-standard samples of tincture of aconite" is due to hydrolysis of the aconitine and that the hydrolysis is caused by aging and its rate is materially increased by the manipulation given the fluidextract in preparing a tincture

from it. The report promises that this matter will be further investigated and reported upon.

Relative to Tincture of Belladonna, it is stated that it is clear that many of the samples of this tincture taken by inspectors were made from the belladonna root, or what is more likely, from fluidextract of belladonna root. Attention is called to the fact that the U. S. P. only recognizes the tincture made from the leaves, and that fluidextracts of both leaves and the root are official. Attention is also called to the further fact that the fluidextract made from the root is one-third stronger than that made from the leaves, and that, therefore, a tincture made from the fluidextract of belladonna root will be one-third too strong, and of brown color instead of green—the natural color of the leaves. The report warns as follows:

“Because the tincture of belladonna is a very potent medicine and much used, it is important that pharmacists clearly understand the difference.”

Mr. Woodward makes several timely warnings against the use of other than U. S. P. standard drugs in the preparation of official pharmaceuticals. In warning against the use of artificial oil of peppermint, which he says is now on the market at a considerably lower price than the true oil, he points out that the artificial oil is made from synthetic menthol, which is optically inactive while natural menthol is strongly levorotatory. Another reason given why the artificial oil should not be used in making official preparations is the fact that the 50% of the true oil, not menthol, is a complex mixture which it is at present impossible to imitate closely.

Mr. Woodward also warns strongly against the “reprehensible practice” of using denatured alcohol in the manufacture of medicinal preparations, emphasizing the fact that when a preparation or a prescription calls for alcohol—“pure U. S. P. ethyl alcohol and not alcohol containing any foreign substances,” is meant.

Relative to U. S. P. spirit of nitrous ether, Mr. Woodward reports as follows: “Although U. S. P. sweet spirit of nitre has been given the widest attention and most comprehensive research into ways and means of producing and keeping it up to standard, it still remains one of the most persistent and flagrant violators of the drug laws.”

Mr. Woodward then points out that in spite of the fact that the U. S. P. directs that this preparation shall be preserved in small, well-stoppered, dark amber-colored bottles, in a cool, dark place, etc., inspectors continually report that this preparation is kept by pharmacists in so-called stock bottles ranging from a pint to a gallon in size, the majority of these being of white glass, kept on high, warm shelves where strong light has access to them.—“Yet some of those druggists cannot understand why their preparations are found to be below standard.”

Mr. Woodward has included in the report many other timely warnings and useful hints to pharmacists. In one article entitled, “The Fine Points of a Weighty Subject,” he states that too large a per cent of weights used by pharmacists are not standard, and he makes many useful suggestions regarding the importance of accurate weights, their proper handling, cleaning, etc.

Another article is entitled “Drug Labels I Have Known.” In this article Mr. Woodward mentions many errors and inconsistencies of labels in general use by pharmacists and closes with the following:

“It is not the purpose of this article to give details as to the correct labeling of

the various commodities. Suffice it to say all labels, besides showing distinction, honor and correctness of information, should also conform to the laws of the land concerning the particular product. That is, poisons should be so labeled and the printing should be in red ink. The percentage of alcohol should be stated and the presence of certain substances as acetanilid, chloroform, etc., should be declared in accordance with State and federal laws."

H. H. Hoffman, Director, wrote the introduction to the report—an outline of the Board of Pharmacy's part in safeguarding public health. This gives a brief but comprehensive statement of the laws which are being enforced, and the duties of the Board of Pharmacy. It shows receipts of \$37,793.50 in the year ending June 30, 1926 as against \$7500.00 in the year ending June 30, 1921. These figures not only show a wonderful increase in revenue, but make it clear that the work which the Board is doing is of increasing importance to the welfare of the public, as well as raising the standard of pharmacy in the State. By its work, as covered in this very comprehensive report, Michigan is setting an example which, if followed by every other State, would reflect great credit on pharmacy as a profession in the safeguarding of public health.—H. C. C.

GENERAL NEWS ITEMS.

A legislative measure directed against illegal liquor-vending drug stores was approved by the Missouri Board of Pharmacy at a recent meeting in Kansas City and is to be introduced at the present session of the Legislature.

This proposed law would require a permit for each store operating, and permits would be issued only to stores owned or managed by a registered pharmacist. It also proposes to open all drug stores to inspection by the Board, thus making detection of violations easier. The punishment for violation would be a jail sentence or a fine, and each week of violation would constitute a separate offense.

N. G. Edelblute, of Topeka, President of the Kansas Board, was recently held up while going from his store to his home, a distance of less than a block, and forced to return to the store, unlock the safe, and give the thieves \$280.00 in cash.

Dr. H. E. Kalusowski, Dean of the Pharmacy Department of George Washington University, passed away very suddenly January 9, 1927. Just the night before, he had been talking to A. C. Taylor, N. A. B. P. Vice-President and Chairman of District No. 2, regarding representation from the colleges at the district meeting, soon to be held. The George Washington University will long miss this ardent worker for the cause of pharmacy.

LEGISLATION AGAINST THE CHAIN STORE.

A bill which aims to restrict the discriminatory practices of chain stores, in the interest of public welfare and as a protection for the small store interests, is being prepared by attorneys in Pennsylvania for introduction into the legislature of that State, according to an account published in the *Wilkes-Barre Telegram* under date of December 5, 1926.

In commenting on this proposed bill, the *Telegram* states in part as follows:

"The very question that the Sherman law settled is involved in the chain store proposition. It is the protection of the small interests from the criminal and discriminatory encroachment by the large interests. . . The Sherman act covered the situation and the belief prevails that the bill now in the making at Harrisburg will have a similar effect on the destructive chain store proposition. . . The bill to be introduced at Harrisburg is not designed to destroy the chain stores. That cannot be done through legislation. It is designed, however, to break up the nefarious and un-American practice of allowing chain stores to discriminate in their prices."

Later reports are to the effect that the bill has been introduced. While this bill is being sponsored by the independent grocers, it would seem to be of equal interest to the druggists.—H. C. C.

STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY NEWS ITEMS.

Connecticut.—Report of the November meeting held at Hartford shows that four out of the sixteen candidates taking the examination for registration as pharmacist were successful.

District of Columbia.—The final report on the October examination shows 45 candidates taking the examination, of which number 12 passed and received certificates and 33 failed.

Idaho.—The Department of Law Enforcement, Bureau of Licenses, reports that all of the six candidates taking the January examination for registration as pharmacist were successful. The one candidate taking examination for registration as an assistant was also successful. Reciprocal registration was granted to Lynn L. Davis, John F. Bradshaw and Allen H. Hoag, of Washington; F. L. Christenson and Frank J. Golden, of Oregon; Arthur C. Dring, of Missouri; Maurice B. Conrad, of Illinois.

Examination dates for future meetings have been changed from the first Tuesday in January and July to the third Tuesday in the same months.

Illinois.—At the meeting held January 18th to 21st inclusive, 128 applicants appeared for examination for full registration, and 42 for assistant registration; 20 candidates applied for reciprocal registration and a list of the names of those granted registration will be supplied for publication later.

Indiana.—At the examination meeting of the Board held on January 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th—41 applicants appeared for examination and registration as pharmacist, and 20 for assistant registration. Results of examinations will be reported later. Reciprocal registration was granted to the following: Fred J. Frison, of Illinois; W. W. McNamara, of Montana; Clويد V. Carmichael, of Iowa; Harold S. Coates, of Michigan; Harry G. Carney, of West Virginia.

Kansas.—The State Association members and the Board of Pharmacy are doing all that they can to defeat the proposed consolidation bill, which would place all the various boards into one large department under one executive. To put a professional board on a commercial basis is not conducive to a betterment of the profession and its code of ethics. It is hoped that Kansas will succeed in blocking and defeating this measure.

The annual inspection of drug and other stores selling patent medicines will be completed some time in February.

The next examination meeting will be held February 2nd and 3rd at Wichita.

Kentucky.—Of the 23 applicants taking the January examination at Covington, 19 were college graduates and 4 were re-taking the examination who were eligible as non-graduates. Of this total number, five candidates were successful, four being college graduates and one a non-graduate. Six applicants took examination for the assistant certificate and five of them were successful. Reciprocal registration was granted to Chas. A. Schwaninger, Thomas A. Bramble and Raymond F. Doherty, all of Indiana.

The next examination meeting will be held in Paducah on April 12th.

Maine.—The Board held an examination meeting at Augusta on December 8th. Ten candidates were examined, out of which number 3 passed the examination successfully and were granted registration as pharmacists.

Massachusetts.—Twenty-one candidates out of a class of 63 have been granted registration as pharmacist as a result of the November examination.

Minnesota.—The annual meeting of the Board was held on January 10th. Edwin A. Brown of Winona was elected President of the Board and John W. Dargavel of Minneapolis, Secretary.

Forty-four candidates took the January examination, 20 of whom were graduates and 24 non-graduates; 28 of this total were successful in passing, 17 being graduates and 11 non-graduates. Fifty-two candidates took the assistant examination and 20 of this number passed.

Reciprocal registration was granted to Eva R. Hansen of South Dakota, and Philip R. Nelson and Donald M. Christianson, both of North Dakota.

Mississippi.—There seems to be a general tendency among the pharmacists of the State to have the present law amended or rewritten to more fully embody the principles laid down in the model law, such as annual re-registration, a registration of stores, etc.

It is probable that a draft will be made of the proposed changes and submitted to the State Association in June for approval by the membership, after which it will be corrected and placed in the hands of the Legislative Committee for presentation to the legislature in 1928.

Joe J. Gerashe, Jr., of Vicksburg, has been appointed by the Governor to fill the unexpired term of J. D. Harpole, deceased.

Five of the six applicants taking the January examination, all graduates, were successful, and have been issued certificates.

Nebraska.—Robert A. Hardt, of Hastings, has resigned as Secretary of the Nebraska Board of Pharmacy and accepted a position with E. R. Squibb & Sons. Guy Butler, of the Butler Drug Co., of Lincoln, has been appointed by the Governor to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Hardt as a Board member.

New Mexico.—The next examination meeting has been called for May 26th and 27th.

Pennsylvania.—The final report on the October examination shows that pharmacist certificates were issued to eighty-two out of two hundred and sixty-three taking examination. All candidates are graduates of a recognized school of pharmacy. Fifty-six assistant pharmacists passed the examination given to one hundred and nineteen, and this grade of certificate has been issued to the successful ones.

Reciprocal registration has recently been granted to Aram P. Oski, of Massachusetts; Gale Satterlee, of Illinois; Harold L. Schryver and Roy B. Thomas, of Ohio; Robert I. Stagmer, of New Jersey.

South Carolina.—The next examination meeting of the Board will be held on March 16th at Columbia.

South Dakota.—Several amendments to the present pharmacy law have been prepared by the Executive Committee of the State Association and have been introduced in the legislature and have received the approval of the Committee on Drugs and Food.

These amendments include a prerequisite or college graduate requirement, together with law definitions of the terms drug store, pharmacy, medicine, poison, etc.

The next meeting of the Board will be held at Brookings, June 7th and 8th.

Virginia.—A special session of the Legislature will meet in spring, possibly about April 1st, to consider a re-organization of the various State departments of government. A bill consolidating the pharmacy, medical, dental and other State Boards probably will be introduced.

The next examination meeting of the Board will be held on April 25th.

Washington.—An examination in which 100% of the candidates were college graduates and successful in passing is the record established at the January meeting, the number of candidates being three.

Reciprocal registration was granted to Edgar H. Johnson, of Minnesota; James Leslie Shaw, of Oregon; Jay H. Allison, of Montana.

Wisconsin.—Eighteen out of 52 candidates taking the January examination were successful and have been granted certificates as registered pharmacists. Assistant certificates were granted to 21 out of 50 taking that examination.

Reciprocal registration was granted to Earl M. Jenson, of Pennsylvania.

The next examination will be held in Madison on April 18th.

DISTRICT MEETINGS.

Hugo O. Peterson—N. A. B. P. Vice-President and Chairman of District No. 4 including Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North and South Dakota—has completed arrangements for a meeting of that district to be held in St. Paul, Minn., on Wednes-

day, February 9th, during the week of the Great Northwest Drug Show and the forty-third annual meeting of the Minnesota State Pharmaceutical Association. All State Boards of the district are expected to send delegates. Several of the schools and colleges of pharmacy of the district also will be represented.

The following program for the meeting has been announced:

1. Address by Vice-President Hugo O. Peterson.
2. Report by National Secretary H. C. Christensen.
3. Report of various State Boards.
4. Discussion on advances and reciprocity.
5. The method of conducting examinations in the different Northwest States. Reports by delegates followed by discussions.
6. Desirable changes in State pharmacy laws relating to Pharmacy Board activities—discussions.
7. Pharmacy inspectors and enforcement problems—discussion.
8. Formulation of recommendations for national associations.

Progress is being made with arrangements for meetings in Districts 2, 5, 6, and 7 to be held some time during March or April.—H. C. C.

THE WELLCOME HISTORICAL MEDICAL MUSEUM.

The Wellcome Historical Medical Museum (London) was founded by our fellow member Henry S. Wellcome in 1913. Among the collections are the following:

"An English alchemical manufacturing laboratory of the sixteenth century. This reconstructed laboratory is one such as Paracelsus might have used. Mysterious, gloomy, dark, with strange animals and fish depending from the roof, casting fantastic and eerie shadows on the old stone walls, it offers a glimpse of the surroundings of the worker in science some four centuries ago. Most of the equipment in this laboratory was in use in England for the production of medicaments until quite recently.

"A London chemist's shop, eighteenth century. The shop front is the original of the pharmacy established in 1798 by John Bell, father of Jacob Bell, founder of the Pharmaceutical Society. The vases and ewers in the interior are of old Davenport ware, the ointment jars of Staffordshire stoneware, and the essence bottles of early red Bohemian glass. The laboratory in the rear contains the original ancient fittings of a pharmaceutical laboratory of the eighteenth century that once stood in Russell Street, Covent Garden, London. The preliminary discussions regarding the formation of the Pharmaceutical Society took place in this building.

"Apothecary's shop, 1625.

"Italian pharmacy, sixteenth century.

"A barber-surgeon's shop, sixteenth century.

"Native model of a Chinese drug shop.

"An original Turkish drug shop of the seventeenth century, transferred from the old drug bazaar in Constantinople and reconstructed in the museum.

"In various cases are copies of Hortus Siccus and early herbals; Terra sigillata and the history of this ancient medicament from 100 B. C., together with specimens of the 'Sealed-Earth' of various kinds used in different parts of Europe; Theriaca; rare and curious drugs, including Bezoar stones, eye stones, Chinese ginseng-root, poison sucking stones and drugs used by native witch-doctors; curious specimens of jalap, having a natural resemblance to birds, animals and reptiles; specimens of drugs showing adulteration; ancient Egyptian drugs excavated from a grave, 1500 B. C.; mandrake roots; medicine chests and cases; pill-making apparatus and Delft slabs; ancient pharmaceutical apparatus, etc.; barbers' bowls and basins; hot water bottles; funnels, etc."

INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC IN EUROPE SPREADING.

The epidemic of influenza in southern England is abating, but is spreading to the midland, and also is gaining a foothold in Sweden, Finland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Macedonia, according to a cable received by the United States Public Health Service from the Health Organization of the League of Nations at Geneva, and made public February 8th.