

# EDITORIAL

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WHAT PHARMACY HAS DONE, WHAT IT IS AND ITS OPPORTUNITIES.

DR. W. W. CHARTERS, who directed the recent survey of pharmacy, states in the Preface of "Basic Material for a Pharmaceutical Curriculum that to a marked degree this investigation is a coöperative enterprise of the craft." He expresses "deep appreciation of the very delightful coöperation rendered by the members of the profession. Nobody who was approached failed to perform generously the arduous services often demanded by this sort of study." The quotations contain the substance for a series of comments and the outstanding thought is "coöperation" and the essentials thereto—"to perform generously the arduous services often demanded by this sort of study, and the delightful coöperation which marked this investigation as a coöperative enterprise of the craft." Therein is the essence of good service and of what is necessary for accomplishment, namely, willing, earnest, enthusiastic, delightful coöperation.

The book which contains the report and deductions of the survey will be reviewed in the JOURNAL, hence, comprehensive comment is not made and the statements are general. Readers will find some oft-repeated opinions to be not in accord with the investigations; thus, it will be found that there is more compounding in prescriptions than some would have us believe and more prescriptions are written for U. S. P. and N. F. preparations than reported in general terms by some writers. In the study it was sought to determine with care and exactness the duties of pharmacists and by objective methods to derive with accuracy and definiteness of detail the facts and principles necessary for the mastery of pharmaceutical duties, the purpose being to substitute fact for opinion. While, quite naturally, it was impossible completely to realize this the success is most gratifying. Whenever it was impossible to determine facts the consensus of opinion of experts was utilized instead of the opinion of individuals. The mass of facts which has been collected in this report affords a most interesting study not only for pharmacists but for others who seek to gain information relative to pharmacy's activities and place in business and professional life.

Dr. Charters, after a careful and open-minded study of the pharmacy curriculum for a period of several years, is definitely convinced that pharmacy is a profession rather than a trade. He states further "The materials that the pharmacist deals with are in many cases so dangerous in their effects upon physical well-being, and the problems that face him in handling these materials and in his contacts with the public require so much intelligence—if they are properly performed—that it is absolutely essential for him to have a rather wide and intimate acquaintance with the fundamental sciences upon which the art depends; and since the distinction between the trade and the profession lies essentially in the fact that the trade needs to know only the methods in order to be proficient while the profession needs to know the principles upon which the methods depend, it follows that pharmacy is a profession rather than a trade."

In turning the pages of the report one marvels how it was possible for so much work to be done in so brief a period by those whose time for this investigation was

of necessity limited by the work which provides them a living. The survey has certainly been worth while and gives us assurance that the contemplated investigation of the business side of pharmacy will prove to be equally valuable.

The splendid success of this coöperation emphasizes the accomplishments of pharmaceutical organizations which have worked together in other promotions and points to further possibilities after the Headquarters has been completed. All honor to those whose labor and energies are directed for the elevation of pharmacy and extending its domain of usefulness, and coördinating its services with those in related bodies so that original investigations may be productive of greatest good and best results.—E. G. E.

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#### REGISTERED PHARMACISTS IN HOSPITAL DISPENSARIES.

**T**HE Chairman of the Committee on Hospital Pharmacists, Minnesota—Miss Frances M. Greenwalt—presented a number of reasons why the experience requirement of candidates for State Board examinations should be made to include also experience gained by candidates in hospital pharmacies or dispensaries under fully qualified registered pharmacists. The further recommendation was made that all hospitals be required to have the services of registered pharmacists for all dispensing and compounding of medications.

In the opinion of Miss Greenwalt, if hospital pharmacy experience were given due credit it would bring the time nearer when all hospitals will be required to have registered pharmacists in charge of all dispensing and compounding. Surely, the latter requirement should obtain in the interest of public health. No matter how skilful a surgeon may be or how well trained by experience and otherwise well qualified a physician may be, an inexperienced dispenser may bring to naught the efforts of the former. The pharmacists are few indeed who have not noted the care which physicians exercise in the selection of a pharmacist for special compounding or when they desire exact information relative to a pharmaceutical subject. How unreasonable the attitude which permits unqualified men and women to endanger lives, because of economy, indifference or favoritism.—“The poor boy” arguments, that “higher qualifications are not needed in small communities” and “registered pharmacists are unnecessary for hospital dispensaries” have been the cause of many an error and unjust charges, and pharmacy has not infrequently suffered because of unfortunate accidents for which pharmacists were not responsible. It is to be hoped that wide publicity will be given to the Charters’ Report, not only to those engaged in pharmacy, but to the laity—so that a better understanding of the importance of pharmacy to the life and health of the people may obtain.

The Chicago Branch of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION passed resolutions, at the March meeting, deploring the unfortunate accident which caused the death of six infants.—See under “Local Branches” in this issue of the JOURNAL. However, timely the action, it will not be productive of results without continued promptings. Such occurrences should convey to the minds of those who can bring about improved regulations and conditions that they are negligent in their duties if they do not seek to correct faults in management, especially when life and health are concerned. Accidents will occur, but the causes leading to them should be removed, whenever they are so clearly shown as by the action of the Chicago Branch, A. PH. A.—E. G. E.