

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOARDS OF PHARMACY

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ACTIVE MEMBER STATES.

Alabama	Indiana	Montana	Rhode Island
Alaska	Iowa	Nebraska	South Carolina
Arizona	Kansas	Nevada	South Dakota
Arkansas	Kentucky	New Hampshire	Tennessee
Colorado	Louisiana	New Jersey	Texas
Connecticut	Maine	New Mexico	Utah
Delaware	Maryland	North Carolina	Vermont
D. of Columbia	Massachusetts	North Dakota	Virginia
Florida	Michigan	Ohio	Washington
Georgia	Minnesota	Oklahoma	West Virginia
Idaho	Mississippi	Oregon	Wisconsin
Illinois	Missouri	Pennsylvania	Wyoming

DISTRICT MEETINGS.

The usual spring activity in district meetings is well under way. District No. 4 had the honor of holding the first meeting on February 29th at Des Moines, Iowa. To District No. 2 goes the honor of holding the meeting with the largest attendance so far—52 representatives of colleges and boards—at Baltimore, Md., on March 5th and 6th. District No. 6 also held a very successful and interesting meeting on March 20th and 21st at Hot Springs, Ark.

Before this issue reaches our readers, two more district meetings will have been held—that of District No. 7 at Birmingham, Ala., on April 10th and 11th, and that of District No. 5 at Bristol, Va.-Tenn., on April 13th and 14th. Both districts are vying to break all previous records.

All of these meetings are joint conferences of board and college faculty members. Although only inaugurated last year, these joint meetings have aroused great interest. A frank and free discussion of common problems in this manner, the writer believes, will accomplish far-reaching results within the next few years.

It is impossible to give very much of a synopsis of these meetings in the small space allotted to this department, but the N. A. B. P. secretary's office will mimeograph the complete proceedings of each of these meetings. Copies will be mailed to those in the respective districts, and an additional supply will be made available for any who ask for them.

Resolutions and recommendations adopted by the district groups will be presented for discussion and action at the national conventions of the N. A. B. P. or the A. A. C. P., or both.

A few of the more important recommendations are given below:

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the members of the state boards of pharmacy and the representatives of the colleges of pharmacy assembled in conference that a bill has been introduced in the respective houses of Congress which will give commissions to pharmacists in

the U. S. Public Health Service who are performing duties comparable to those of other professional and scientific officers and whereas this group of educators and board members believes that this recognition of the importance of the duties of the pharmacist is both proper and desirable therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the representatives present at this conference endorse and urge the passage of this legislation House Bill No. H. R. 11026 and Senate Bill No. S. 3356, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is the hope of this group that in the appointment of the National Advisory Health Council provided for in this legislation, there be included at least one pharmacist, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be brought to the attention of the House and the Senate.

RESOLVED, that it is the sense of this conference that board-examination questions be so prepared as to avoid ambiguity and that boards refrain from asking questions which cannot be clearly and definitely interpreted by the person taking the examination.

RESOLVED, that in presenting questions based on National Formulary and unofficial preparations, the boards confine same to the more commonly used preparations and compounds.

RESOLVED, that examiners bear in mind the progress that is being made in the sciences and that examiners endeavor to keep in mind the trend of the times in medical and pharmaceutical procedures when preparing examination questions.

RESOLVED, that three-day-a-week schools of pharmacy are considered inadequate for recognition.

RESOLVED, that the term "official" when used in board examinations be interpreted as meaning a preparation or drug listed in the U. S. P. or N. F.

RESOLVED, that the proposition of members of college faculties serving on boards of pharmacy be disapproved.

RESOLVED, that examiners keep in mind the various phases of a subject when asking questions and avoid as far as possible making their examinations one-sided.

RESOLVED, that the repetition of examination questions be avoided as far as possible in succeeding sets of examinations.

RESOLVED, that elementary questions in the fundamental sciences of Chemistry, Botany and Physiology be omitted from examination in college prerequisite states.

RESOLVED, that in the framing of examination questions, the examiner distinguish clearly between the ingredients used in manufacturing a product and the constituents of the finished product.

RESOLVED, that the use of such general terms as "outline," "discuss," etc., be discouraged and that specific terms such as "describe" or "describe in detail" or "describe briefly" be used in their place.

RESOLVED, that questions on bacteriology and drug assaying be included in board examination but that they shall be of such a nature as to test candidate's ability to use this knowledge in his pharmaceutical practice.

RESOLVED, that questions on materia medica shall not be limited to vegetable drugs but be broadened to include synthetic chemicals, biological products and animal products, and resolved that questions on chemistry be properly proportioned between organic and inorganic chemistry.

RESOLVED, that at the next and future joint meetings the final examination questions of the colleges of pharmacy be presented for criticism, as well as the questions asked by boards of pharmacy.

RESOLVED, that 40% of the questions in the chemistry examination shall be on organic chemistry but that such questions shall be of a practical nature rather than complicated formulas, etc.

RESOLVED, that the question paper on pharmaceutical and chemical problems be confined to pharmaceutical and chemical problems which require arithmetical calculations.

RESOLVED, that the minimum passing mark required in practical pharmacy be raised to 75%.

RESOLVED, that these joint conferences be continued and held annually.

RESOLVED, that careful consideration be given to the recommendations in the Charters report with reference to the addition of subjects to be added to the pharmacy curriculum.

WHAT AN EGYPTIAN THINKS OF AMERICAN PHARMACY.

H. A. Naser who made a trip from Egypt to take the Iowa board examination called at the N. A. B. P. secretary's office recently and was asked his opinion of pharmacy in America and particularly the American drug store.

As a graduate of the University of Iowa School of Pharmacy in 1925, he returned to his own country to teach pharmacy in the University of Cairo, but found that no recognition would be given him for his American college education unless he could also show a license from a state board of pharmacy as evidence of his ability. He returned to America just too late for the November meeting of the Iowa Board and was obliged to wait over for the March examination. The cost of the entire trip will be about \$1700, which, as Secretary Eaton says, "is proof that he has his profession at heart."

Secretary Christensen suggested that inasmuch as the trip back to Egypt is an expensive one, Mr. Naser might stay and practice pharmacy in America.

The latter reluctantly admitted that he did not like the idea. When asked why, he replied hesitatingly lest he should offend, "But I have much pride. In my country the pharmacist is like the physician. He has honor. Here in America—he is, well, like a waiter. Always it is the ice cream and cigarettes."

That remark alone should set American pharmacists to thinking about where the tendency to commercialize is leading.

Mr. Naser based his opinion on his own experience working in American pharmacies. He entered the profession with high hopes but soon learned that his professional training was given little opportunity to function. It was an interminable process of serving ice cream, cigarettes and lunches and wrapping packages—duties which a man without any scientific education could perform. True, he was called upon to fill a prescription once in a while—under conditions of great difficulty. Customers must not be kept waiting, he was told, and therefore he was often called away from his compounding a half dozen times on one prescription to sell cigarettes, sodas and patent medicine. The pharmacist is human. Can a prescription filled in this atmosphere of interruption and hurry be accurately compounded? How can the pharmacist remember where he left off?

It is enlightening once in a while to see ourselves as others see us. That is why this article was written.

GENERAL NEWS.

All who know Edward V. Sheely, an ex-member of the Tennessee Board of Pharmacy and very active in the N. A. B. P. some years ago, will be glad to hear that he has been appointed acting postmaster of Memphis. Mr. Sheely must pass a civil service examination before he can receive a permanent appointment, but those who know him are confident that he will qualify when the examination is given.

Mr. Sheely is very active not only in local civic affairs, but also in pharmaceutical circles, being President of the Tennessee Pharmaceutical Association and the Tri State Pharmaceutical Association, and Past Vice-President of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

A complete history of the Texas Board of Pharmacy is published in the March issue of the *Southern Pharmaceutical Journal* under the title "Something about the Past and Present of Pharmaceutical Examiners of Texas." It was written by Margaret Cousins and is illustrated with splendid pictures of individual members and board groups.

The example is a worthy one for other boards to follow. It would be a comparatively easy matter to start such a history of the activities of the board of pharmacy in each state now; in later years, it would be more difficult to dig back to the beginning.

The separate state histories could be combined into a unit, and, with the history of the N. A. B. P. since its inception added, a complete record of the work of the boards of pharmacy in the United States would be available.

STATE BOARD NEWS.

Alabama.—No definite date has yet been set for the next board meeting.

The Alabama State Association will hold its annual convention on a steamship out of Savannah bound for New York. The vessel sails Saturday, June 9th. Reservations are coming in rapidly to President Hal E. Duncan of Birmingham.

Arizona.—More N. A. B. P. applications will be given consideration at the April 18th meeting of the board than ever before in its history.

An examination will also be held on that date and about 20 candidates are expected from California coast towns. (Since California cannot establish reciprocity with other states under its law, many candidates are taking examination in nearby states to have the privilege of reciprocity later.)

Colorado.—As a result of the January meeting, at which 100 candidates were examined, 18 assistant licenses and 18 full registered certificates have been issued. The next examination will be held in Denver at the State Capitol, May 18th and 19th.

The thirty-fourth annual report of the Colorado Board (year ending July 2, 1927) has just been issued. During the period covered by the report, 139 candidates appeared for examination for registered pharmacist certificates and 24 for the assistant grade. Of these, 29 (21%) of the former and 17 (17%) of the latter were successful in making the required grades.

A record of grades made in the various subjects indicates that whereas *Materia Medica* has heretofore always been the easiest subject of the examination, it has yielded this year to chemistry; and pharmaceutical arithmetic, which has heretofore been the most difficult subject has risen to second place, the average grades in pharmacy being about ten points lower than the mathematical subject.

Twenty-seven applicants were registered by reciprocity from the following states:

Illinois	2	Maryland	1	Nebraska	4	Pennsylvania	1
Indiana	1	Michigan	1	New Jersey	1	Washington	2
Iowa	3	Minnesota	2	Oklahoma	1	West Virginia	1
Kansas	2	Missouri	2	Oregon	1	Wisconsin	1
		Wyoming	1				

A sample set of examination questions is published in the report; a list of registered and assistant pharmacists and apprentices of the state; a directory of proprietors and managers of stores; a complete digest of pharmacy, poison and narcotic laws, as well as rules and regulations of the board on these subjects.

Idaho.—The Department of Law Enforcement reports that a special effort has been made during the past month to require all stores that do not have a registered pharmacist in their continuous employ to remove signs advertising drugs.

The Internal Revenue Department is also coöperating by refusing to issue any more permits or renew old permits except to those who are licensed and in good standing. Under Section 5 of the Harrison Narcotic law some non-licensed men have been receiving permits in the past.

Kansas.—The Kansas Board of Pharmacy was entertained in a most sumptuous manner at a banquet given by Joe F. Demain, Treasurer of the board, at the Crescent Hotel, Macksville,

his home town. The occasion was in honor of two retiring members—John Schmitter of Gypsum City and N. G. Edleblute of Topeka. There is a universal appreciation of the fine fellowship that marked the association of these men on the board.

Kentucky.—The ownership bill was defeated by three votes in the Kentucky legislature. A bill imposing a sales tax on cosmetics was defeated, as was also a bill requiring the board of pharmacy to employ only registered pharmacists as inspectors.

The quarterly meeting of the board will be held in Hopkinsville, April 10th.

Massachusetts.—Following the good example of Pennsylvania, the Massachusetts State Pharmaceutical Association has presented a bill to the legislature with provisions similar to the Pennsylvania ownership law. It prevents chain owners, unless licensed as pharmacists, from acquiring new stores.

A surprise complimentary dinner was recently tendered to Charles W. King, Secretary, by his colleagues on the board of pharmacy. The place was the private dining room of the Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston, and a few ex-members of the board and other guests were invited. A fine electric wall clock was presented to Mr. King as a memento of the occasion. He has recently been appointed for another five-year term on the board.

Nebraska.—The Public Welfare Department has been strictly enforcing the new law restricting the sale of aspirin to registered pharmacists. It is likely that the validity of the law will be tested in the courts, as a number of those prosecuted under the act are questioning its constitutionality. The decision of the Minnesota Supreme Court upholding a similar law in that state should be of great assistance in winning a verdict favorable to pharmacy.

New Mexico.—The next meeting of the board will be held at Albuquerque on May 21st and 22nd. Both an examination and a business meeting will be held. From the way applications have been coming in up to this time, it looks as if there will be a record attendance.

Oklahoma.—Of the twenty-eight candidates taking the recent examination twenty were successful in passing, one being a woman.

Pennsylvania.—Another victory on the ownership law was scored, when the Court of Common Pleas upheld the constitutionality of the act in the case of the George B. Evans Co., owner of a chain of stores in Philadelphia. Both the Liggett Co. and the Evans Co. have stated that they will appeal to a higher court.

At the examinations held January 19th, 20th and 21st by the Pennsylvania Board of Pharmacy, there were 141 candidates for pharmacist registration and 171 candidates for assistant pharmacist registration. There were 62 pharmacist certificates granted and 31 assistant pharmacist certificates issued.

Rhode Island.—Charles Gilson of Centerdale was reelected President of the Rhode Island Pharmaceutical Association at the annual meeting held in Providence on January 11th. This will make his second year of service in that capacity.

Mr. Gilson is a member of the board of pharmacy and attended the N. A. B. P. convention in St. Louis as its delegate, presenting the application for membership from Rhode Island in person.

Utah.—The results of the examination at Salt Lake City January 17th and 18th have been announced—seven out of nine candidates writing the examination were successful.

Vermont.—On January 31st, Governor Weeks re-appointed Fred D. Pierce of Barton a member of the board for a term of five years to succeed himself.

Virginia.—The bill to abolish the issuing of registered assistant pharmacist certificates which was pending before the legislature, as reported in the last issue, was lost in the senate on March 9th by three votes.

The annual meeting of the board of pharmacy will be held on Monday, April 30th, and officers will be elected for the ensuing year.

The governor has as yet made no appointment of a successor to W. L. Lyle of Bedford, whose term expired on March 1st. Mr. Lyle holds over until his successor is appointed.
