

The incoming freshmen of 1930-1931 all enrolled in the four-year course in Pharmacy and, after a study of their orientation grades, there seems to be distinct indications that they have been better trained in the fundamentals. This group had the highest percentage of their number with a score of over 50 in the School of Pharmacy during the past five years, there being a total of 42.8% of the group with an average above 50, 68.6% above 30, 77.2% above 20 and only 5.7% below 10. The mortality of this group should be low as compared to that of previous years.

In conclusion, the orientation tests have been of value to us in sectioning students, in predicting their performance, in determining the load that should be assigned and in comparing the mental ability of students entering Pharmacy with students entering the other schools of the University. The results show that students entering the shorter course in Pharmacy have been below the average and that students entering the four-year Pharmacy course showed, this year, a great improvement. What will happen hereafter we cannot say, but we are optimistic enough to predict that this improvement will continue.

PLACE AND PURPOSE OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION AMONG PHARMACEUTICAL ORGANIZATIONS.*

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In a society in which powerful combinations are universally relied upon to influence public policies, the ability of a numerically small and unorganized group to make itself heard above the general clamor is pitifully small.

Assuming a total of 120,000 registered pharmacists in a census of more than 120,000,000 people, a ratio below one to a thousand, or less than one-tenth of one per cent, the chance of the individual pharmacist to influence legislative and administrative policies is practically zero.

Whatever has been accomplished to give pharmacy place and standing has been solely through the efforts of a comparatively small section of this tenth of one per cent. Consider what might be accomplished if we could count upon the genuine and intelligent coöperation of a majority of pharmacy's scattered units!

NUMBER AND WEAKNESS OF PHARMACEUTICAL ORGANIZATIONS.

Apparently there is no scarcity of pharmaceutical organizations. There are possibly several hundred city, county and other local societies, nearly half a hundred state associations, and almost a dozen societies of national scope, but it is estimated that less than one-third of those on the rolls of registered pharmacists are dues-paying members of their state and national associations. Organizations are numerically abundant, but the degree of organization is slight. The machinery is ample but the motive power is woefully inadequate—like a thousand-ton liner with the power plant of a dingey.

The great problem of pharmacy to-day is to discover some effective means of reaching the great mass of non-coöperating druggists and of successfully per-

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suading them that their duty to their calling and their self interest require them to become active supporters of their state and national organizations.

PHARMACY IS BOTH TRADE AND PROFESSION.

Much time and energy have been spent in a discussion of the question whether pharmacy should be classed as a profession or as a variety of tradesmanship. A simple answer to the question is that it is both.

Anciently it was the fashion to restrict the term "profession" or "learned profession" to occupations which implied the possession of a liberal education, and the practice of which involved mental rather than manual labor, as the professions of law and divinity. In more modern times it has become customary to apply the term to any occupation for which preparation is made by pursuing a special course of study at a college or university, regardless of whether the practice of the occupation involves the performance of manual labor or not, under which more liberal interpretation numerous occupations, as medicine, surgery, dentistry, engineering, etc., are regarded as professions. And since preparation for the practice of pharmacy now requires the completion of a liberal college course of study, it likewise is entitled to be regarded as a professional occupation.

We recognize, however, that the pharmacist is constantly called upon to discharge two classes of functions. Of the pharmacist's activities we may regard as professional—*i. e.*, as pharmaceutical—those which require the technical knowledge and skill that can be acquired only through a special course of study and experience. When his activity is one that does not require any degree of skilled manipulation, or any degree of training other than the ability to read a printed label, the performance is as much a commercial transaction as if performed by a grocer or hardware merchant.

When a salesman takes from a shelf a finished and properly labeled package and hands it to the purchaser, the act is that of a seller of drugs or drug merchant. When, however, he goes to the general stock of drugs and measures or weighs out and labels a portion of a particular drug he is performing an act which is pharmaceutical in character, since if he is not trained in technical terminology and does not possess the special knowledge necessary to select the proper drug he may dispense tartar emetic instead of rochelle salt, white vitriol instead of magnesium sulphate, or make any one of a hundred other possible mistakes that would result in disastrous consequences to his patrons.

In short, the pharmacist is a professional man when he practices pharmacy, properly so-called, and a merchant when he handles packaged and properly labeled drugs as merchandise.

OUR TWO NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

Corresponding to the two varieties of activities of retail pharmacy, commercial and professional, we have two great national organizations, the National Association of Retail Druggists and the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

As indicated by its name, the National Association of Retail Druggists represents specifically the interests and especially the economic interests of the retail druggist, just as the N. W. D. A. represents specifically the interests of the wholesalers.

This fine association of retailers, numerically the largest drug organization in the world, because of its consistent championship of the special interests of the retailer, as for example in its support of the Capper-Kelly Fair Trade Bill now pending in Congress, as well as because of its many other important activities, deserves the gratitude and loyal support of every retail druggist in these United States.

The AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, on the other hand, is mainly concerned with the cultivation of the scientific and professional interests of the entire field of pharmacy, and admits to membership not only retail druggists, but wholesalers, manufacturers, professors in colleges of pharmacy, or individuals connected with any other legitimate branch of pharmacy.

These two great national organizations are not rivals, but friendly co-workers for the advancement of pharmacy. While each has a special line of work to which it mainly devotes its efforts, there is also a wide zone of common interests where the two work hand in hand. Their executive bodies regularly meet in joint sessions for the consideration of problems common to both; the leading members of the N. A. R. D. are usually also active members of the A. PH. A. and sometimes the same individuals hold official positions in both societies.

HISTORY AND MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE A. PH. A.

As the N. A. R. D. is the largest, so the A. PH. A. is the oldest pharmaceutical association in America, and one of the oldest in the entire world. Founded by a group of able pharmacists in New York City in 1851, it is now in the 81st year of its existence, a fairly venerable age in a country as young as ours.

The record of its work is contained in 59 volumes of Proceedings, 16 volumes of the Year Book, 6 annual volumes of the Bulletin, and 21 volumes of the monthly JOURNAL, comprising in all more than a hundred volumes of publications, and containing nearly a hundred thousand printed pages, one of the most extensive and most valuable compilations of practical and usable information issued by any professional organization.

During its existence of four-fifths of a century the ASSOCIATION has enjoyed the membership, and has received the benefit of the best minds in American pharmacy. It started out with four well-defined objectives in view, the promotion of legislation, education, organization and of scientific research, all in pharmaceutical lines, and its activities to-day consist mainly of an elaboration and expansion of that original first program.

A. PH. A. WORK IN LEGISLATION.

From the beginning constructive work in legislation has been one of the major activities of the ASSOCIATION. Foreign laws concerning adulteration of drugs, governing the sale and labeling of poisons, and regulating the practice of pharmacy were obtained and studied. Models of laws were prepared in such form as it was believed would adapt them to American conditions, and were circulated among druggists of the United States, and these models have been amended from time to time to bring them into conformity to changing views.

As a consequence every state pharmacy act and every poison label act in force in the states to-day are either copies of, or modifications of these original A. PH. A. model laws.

When the abuse of habit-forming drugs became a public issue, the A. PH. A. through a committee, prepared the draft of a Model Anti-Narcotic Law which, either in whole or in modified form, has found its way into the statute books of every state.

When the time came for legislation of national character upon the subject, it was the A. PH. A. which called together the National Drug Trade Conference, a committee of which drafted and secured the passage by Congress of the Federal habit-forming drug law known as the Harrison Act.

When the Federal Food and Drugs Act of June 30, 1906, was being drafted it was members of the A. PH. A. who procured the insertion in that act of principles and provisions which the A. PH. A. had at one time or another worked out and approved.

It may therefore be said that in a large and comprehensive way the A. PH. A. has been either the source or inspiration of all legislation affecting the practice of pharmacy, the regulation of the sale of poisons and habit-forming drugs, or relating to the adulteration of drugs, in existence in the United States to-day.

A. PH. A. PROMOTED ORGANIZATION OF STATE ASSOCIATIONS.

The A. PH. A. early realized that to carry out its program for the improvement of pharmacy would require the assistance of local and state associations, and it adopted as one of its major tasks the creation of such organizations. At every annual convention its members were urged to take immediate steps for the creation of associations in their respective states, and all of the early state organizations originated in this manner.

When in course of time it became apparent that a separate national organization was needed to look after the specific interests of the retail druggists, the A. PH. A. instead of discouraging the movement strongly supported it. If you will examine the roster of that historic meeting in the city of St. Louis, when the N. A. R. D. was founded, it will be discovered that the officers and committeemen of the new body almost to a man were active members of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

Consistently from its very beginning the A. PH. A. has stood for the thorough-going organization of the scattered units of pharmacy. It took the initiative in calling together the Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties, now the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, the National Drug Trade Conference, the Association of State Association Secretaries and other similar bodies.

As at present constituted the A. PH. A. is a compound organization, or an Association of Associations, or more properly speaking a Federation. Its principal governing body is a House of Delegates, consisting of delegates from all state pharmaceutical associations and from all recognized national, pharmaceutical and drug organizations.

As representatives of the state associations predominate numerically in the House of Delegates, it may be said that the future of the A. PH. A. lies in the hands of these state societies.

THE ADVANCEMENT OF PHARMACEUTICAL EDUCATION.

Pharmaceutical Education was likewise one of the important tasks to which

the A. PH. A. early directed its efforts. As the majority of the founders of the ASSOCIATION were college men it was natural that they should regard the proper education of the pharmacist as a matter of first importance, and one of the earliest determinations of the society was that there should be a college of pharmacy established in each state as rapidly as the increase in population would make its support possible.

At an early date in its history the ASSOCIATION approved a college curriculum which would be creditable even to-day. It has constantly fostered the progress of education, labored for the advancement of the standards for the registration of pharmacists, and given encouragement and support to the colleges of pharmacy.

THE PROMOTION OF PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH.

Research has always been one of the principal features of the ASSOCIATION program. Researches respecting the origin and identification of drugs, the study and separation of their active constituents, the devising of new methods of extraction, and their standardization as to active constituents have been contributed by hundreds of the ablest men American pharmacy has produced.

As an aid to research the association has for many years published an annual "Report on the Progress of Pharmacy," in which there has been brought together a summary of the work of the pharmacists, chemists and botanists of every country. At first published as a part of the annual volume of bound Proceedings, and now continued in the Year Book, this Report is a compilation of information relating to pharmacy and its collateral subjects, the value of which can be appreciated only by those who have used it.

WORK ON THE U. S. P. AND N. F.

If the A. PH. A. had accomplished nothing more, it would be entitled to the lasting gratitude of the drug trade for its work in securing the continuance of the U. S. P. as an authoritative standard of the medical and pharmaceutical professions.

The U. S. P., as is well known, was established by the medical profession in 1820, and led a more or less languishing existence for about 50 or 60 years. In the eighteen-eighties the production of proprietary specialties by manufacturing houses had grown to such an extent that physicians had ceased to feel the need of an official standard for drugs and medicines. Interest in the Pharmacopœia had fallen to such a low ebb that it was seriously proposed either to abandon the work of its periodical revision, or to turn the whole publication over to a private publishing concern. It was at this point that leading members of the A. PH. A., as Dr. Chas. Rice, Edward R. Squibb, Professor Joseph P. Remington, Albert E. Ebert, S. A. D. Sheppard, and others, came forward with plans for the resuscitation and revision of the official standard that would make it a fit representation of the best thought in pharmacy and medicine.

In like manner the National Formulary, previously a recipe book of local repute, was taken over by the A. PH. A. and converted into the splendid national standard for preparations and drugs in use but not recognized in the U. S. P. that it now is.

To crown its work upon the Pharmacopœia and National Formulary the A. PH. A. through certain of its members, procured the recognition of these two

standards by the Food and Drugs Act of June 30, 1906, which has generally been followed by state enactments, so that the entire drug trade has been saved from the arbitrary standards which might possibly have been inflicted upon it through officious bureaucratic methods.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHARMACY.

Some years ago the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION began the collection of funds for the erection of a building in which could be housed the offices of the association and which, at the same time, would serve as a National Monument to scientific and professional pharmacy. All branches of the drug trade have contributed to the fund, which now amounts to something over a quarter million dollars.

A beautiful design has been adopted, and it is expected that before the present year is ended there will begin the erection of the American Institute of Pharmacy. The institution will be located on one of the most beautiful sites in the City of Washington, and within easy reaching distance of the Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument.

In the building will be housed the offices of General Secretary, Editor of the JOURNAL, and Reporter on the Progress of Pharmacy, an historical library, various research laboratories for work on Pharmacopœial and National Formulary problems, an historical museum, showing the development of pharmacy, etc., etc. The structure will be of classic design, in keeping with U. S. Government Buildings, and will be one of which every American pharmacist can be justly proud.

UNIVERSALITY OF A. PH. A. SERVICE TO PHARMACY.

The AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION has been a principal factor in the development of pharmaceutical organization, legislation and education in the Western World. It has promoted research, inspired higher professional ideals and has exerted a constant and powerful influence for the advancement of every phase of the science and art of pharmacy.

Quoting from a paper presented to the Ohio State Pharmaceutical Association by the present writer more than thirty years ago:

.... "there is not a single field of pharmaceutical activity into which it [the A. PH. A.] has not entered and done valuable work; scarcely a problem ethical or practical to which it has not given serious attention; hardly a matter of general interest to our profession to which it has not made contributions of value; and there is not a single individual connected with legitimate pharmacy in any of its branches who is not debtor to it for substantial benefits received. Everywhere it has been a positive force for good; conservative in action, ethical in its purposes, and exerting a powerful influence for the betterment of every branch of a profession that is one of the most useful divisions of human activity, if not the most honored and lucrative."
