

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES OF PHARMACY

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DEPARTMENT.

Editor's Note: Do colleges of pharmacy give sufficient work in pharmacology? I believe I agree with Dean Serles that they do not and that, with the extension of the course to four years, this should be corrected. However, the cost of a laboratory course in pharmacology to a large group of students may be expensive unless great care is taken to keep the expenses down. Demonstration by the instructor of the pharmacological reactions that "run into money" will be helpful, but a course that consists entirely of such demonstrations will not suffice. Dean Serles has presented a sane view of the problem and has given suggestions that will be helpful to any college contemplating such a course.—C. B. JORDAN, *Editor*.

OUR FOUR YEARS' EXPERIENCE WITH THE TEACHING OF PHARMACOLOGY AT SOUTH DAKOTA STATE COLLEGE.

BY E. R. SERLES.*

The advent of the four-year course as a minimum requirement for graduation from member colleges of this association has brought forth a divergence of opinion as to what subject material, new or old, should properly receive further development. The Syllabus published in the latter part of 1932 has projected an outline of the old and some new courses, which although not obligatory, will undoubtedly influence many of the schools and colleges in reshaping their curricula. Perhaps the most radical departure from the old order advocated by the Syllabus Committee was the dropping of the term *Materia Medica* and the inclusion of the term *Pharmacology* in lieu thereof.

Pharmacology is not a new science. It is not new to Pharmacy for our leading pharmaceutical houses have been employing a knowledge of its fundamental principles in drug standardization for many years.

The teaching of this science in colleges of pharmacy is, however, new. A survey of our college catalogs of a few years ago fails to show more than one or two schools engaged in the teaching of any phase of pharmacology except posology and toxicology and in most cases such courses were wholly didactic.

Realizing the value of laboratory demonstration in the teaching of chemistry, pharmacy and dispensing, we of the faculty of State College conceived the idea that the teaching of dosage and related functions of drugs could be more easily accomplished if we could but show the effects of a single drug or a group of drugs upon living organisms.

Perusal of medical college catalogs and laboratory outlines of courses in pharmacology offered in such schools, together with experience gained in the chemical war service clearly indicated that a course in pharmacology for pharmacy students was feasible and, what was more important, desirable.

Pharmacology was accordingly offered as an advanced elective to those students who had completed courses in physiology, pharmacognosy, *materia medica* and chemistry. The ease with which they adjusted themselves to the complicated laboratory procedure of taking a blood pressure, giving anesthetics, hypodermic and

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