

# THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES OF PHARMACY

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DEPARTMENT.

*Editor's Note:* Shall the pharmacist go after the dental prescriptions? By all means. The following paper by Professor Schicks tells how it may be done and also tells how we may prepare our students to serve the dental profession. It is worthy of careful perusal by all faculties of colleges of pharmacy.—C. B. JORDAN, *Editor*.

## SHALL COLLEGES OF PHARMACY TEACH DENTAL PHARMACY?

BY GEORGE C. SCHICKS.\*

The extension of the time period and the enlargement of the scope of course content in the present-day training of the student of Pharmacy stands as mute evidence of what has been uppermost in the minds of pharmaceutical educators. College courses have not been lengthened from two years to four nor course subjects doubled that the graduate in pharmacy might say, "I have attended college four years," nor has this change come about for the purpose of increasing the prestige of the profession of pharmacy.

No one will question the fact that professional prestige follows close upon increased training, a firmer scientific background and a greater adaptability in fields closely allied with pharmacy. But pharmaceutical educators have not thought first of professional prestige. Colleges of pharmacy have been scientific pioneers in professional usefulness. To such an end have their faculties shaped courses to widen the scope of the professional activities of their graduates. Professional usefulness must be the key-note of every pharmacy curriculum. Professional usefulness must be the pattern from which every basic scholastic activity of a college is fashioned. Professional usefulness must be first, last and uppermost in the minds of educators in our colleges; it must be—nothing else can be substituted, for professional usefulness is the salvation of Pharmacy.

It is fast becoming a reality that the man in pharmacy who can divorce himself most completely from the soda fountain, the cigar case, the cosmetic counter and the sandwich grill, is the man who has narrowed his competition to the minimum. May I say again—he alone among the keepers of shops is licensed by law to compound prescriptions. That has been the key-note of his training and his professional prestige will increase with his professional usefulness.

Each year splendid groups of fine young men and women leave our colleges of pharmacy—young people whose eyes have seen scientific wonders under microscopes; whose fingers have held tubes while scientific miracles have gone on within those glass containers; whose hands have stained slide after slide, that those eyes might behold the giants of disease which stalk among men. Are those young people going to give up their test-tubes and mortars and microscopes to make sodas or ham sandwiches?

Of course, they aren't. Those young people have caught the spirit of science. The spirit of science has captured them. They are the products of our colleges

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