

properly manipulate apparatus and, as a corollary, compound prescriptions is probably the most important item. In order for the pharmacist to compound prescriptions properly, a certain amount and kind of innate reasoning ability is necessary, which is related in some way to the fifth of the series, inventiveness. My reason for the inclusion of a test for mathematical ability may appear odd, but in my experience, I have found that students deficient in the ability to use arithmetical processes are poor material in so far as their records at pharmacy college are concerned. I need not emphasize the importance of this in connection with the practice of pharmacy.

What is also required is an efficient job analysis involving the duties of the professional pharmacist, which is necessary as an aid in the construction of a suitable aptitude test. Work along this line has already been carried out and the results published by Charters, Lemon and Monell as the "Basic Material for a Pharmaceutical Curriculum."

It must be remembered that a project of this kind, to be of value, must be carried on for a period of not less than ten years, probably longer. Furthermore, it will be necessary to gain the whole-hearted support of the Colleges of Pharmacy and as well, that of pharmaceutical associations. Without coöperation, this work cannot be done as it should be.

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ALONZO ROBBINS, PENNSYLVANIA'S NUMBER ONE PHARMACIST.*

BY JOHN E. KRAMER.¹

Very often a pharmacist who has established himself firmly in professional circles in his state, and who has taken great interest and much responsibility in his state organization, earns the title of "leading druggist," "foremost pharmacist," or "the state's most prominent man in pharmaceutical affairs." The subject of this paper, Alonzo Robbins, was, in truth, all of these, for his Pennsylvania State Certificate, entitling him to practice as a registered pharmacist, has the distinction of bearing the Number One.

It was in 1887, on June 23rd, that the Governor of the great Keystone State created a Board of Pharmacy for the purpose of examining and licensing those who wished to pursue the art and the science which treats of medicinal substances. Until that time there had been no state supervision, and little or no local looking-after of pharmacists, although Philadelphia had exercised some control over its druggists.

Naturally, the first Pennsylvania State Board needed a leader, and Alonzo Robbins, who was then in business for himself at 11th and Vine Streets, in Philadel-

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phia, was appointed president. One of the first duties of the honorable and honored group of men was to register all of the properly qualified pharmacists then practicing within the State's borders. This was done, and handsomely engraved, sealed, signed and numbered certificates were duly issued. By a queer coincidence, Alonzo Robbins, president of the Board, received Certificate Number One.

Pottstown, Pa., some few miles to the west of Philadelphia, was Alonzo Robbin's birthplace, in 1834. He came from there to Philadelphia and later entered the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, from which he graduated in 1855, with the degree of Graduate in Pharmacy, after having completed a two-year course of study. His graduation thesis was a treatise on "The Optical Properties of Fecula, a Form of Starch." There were but twenty-six members in the graduating class with which Robbins received his coveted diploma. Strangely enough, three of the twenty-six later became trustees of their Alma Mater, and Robbins was one of them, having been elected to the Board in 1878 and serving until his death in 1896. He was further honored by his College in 1889 with the honorary degree of Master in Pharmacy.

His successful activities as a retail pharmacist were supplemented by the detailed duties required of him as State Board President, until he resigned in 1895, and as College Trustee. He helped found the Pennsylvania Pharmaceutical Association and, in addition, was a member of the committee appointed by the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy to assist the Pharmacopœia Revision Committee of 1880. Alonzo Robbins' chief work with this latter group was in the field of fluidextracts, and the *American Journal of Pharmacy* for 1883 records his carefully prepared reports, in which he minces no words over the fact that the Revision Committee did not accept all of the suggestions offered by his College Committee. For instance, he states, "The decision of the Committee on Revision to make the finished product represent the drug volume for weight, appears to be an unnecessary exception to the general plan of the Pharmacopœia. . . . It may be said of several of the eleven (newly added extracts) that they are of no more value than some of the ten which were stricken off Danger of injury from heat and loss of activity by precipitation have been over-estimated by writers on fluidextracts." With all due respect to the gentleman and scholar, it may be conjectured that anyone wearing the hirsute adornments that he did, had daily call upon the strength of his own convictions.

His store, on a corner once the center of better Philadelphia, is now a restaurant in one of the decidedly poorer sections of the "City of Brotherly Love." During some recent renovations by his proud descendants, his diploma, his honorary degree, his Pennsylvania Certificate Number One and his certificate of appointment to the State Board, all nicely framed and well preserved, were uncovered. They are soon to be presented to the Museum of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science.



ALONZO ROBBINS.

MINNEAPOLIS, CITY OF LAKES.

Minneapolis' attractions are not surpassed by those of any city in the world. It is the Gateway to Vacation-land, with an average summer temperature of 70 degrees. A group of ultra-smart hotels invites you to restful ease, while a few blocks away you may view the giant flour mills at St. Anthony's Falls, which were discovered in 1680 by Father Louis Hennepin.

No other city has so many lakes within its city limits, where out-door sports may be indulged in; shopping districts offer the products of all countries; and here is located the University of Minnesota, fourth largest in America.

Commercial, financial, educational and cultural center of the Northwest, Minneapolis now ranks fifteenth in size among the cities of the United States.

The Nicollet, Headquarters Hotel, A. Ph. A. Convention, August 21st to 27th, located at Nicollet at Washington, offers the following rates: Single Rooms, with and without bath, \$2.50 and up; Double Rooms, with and without bath, \$4.00 and up. Among other hotels are: Andrews, Field, Radisson, Sheridan, West, Vendome.



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University
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Lake of the
Isles.

