

Each year he endeavors to put more and more of his quiz work upon the basis of written tests, for in these he finds the fairest, the most practical method of making students work. Of course, in large institutions the marking of several hundred test papers each week means a vast amount of work on the part of the instructor upon whom the task falls. It might be added that the chief object of this paper is to suggest to those in charge of the administration of college work, to see that the marking of answers to tests be made the daily—not nightly—routine work of the instructors.

One cannot blame an instructor who is given enough duties to keep him busy all day, if he is not enthusiastic about spending his evenings marking test papers. Nor is it surprising that following the line of least resistance, the oral quizzes go on to the amusement, if not to instruction, of the students they are supposed to benefit.

The writer thinks that in a pharmacy college the quiz hours should be devoted largely to written tests. He feels that each student should get a pharmacy test one week, a chemistry test the following week, a materia medica or botany test the third week, getting back to the pharmacy test the fourth week. In each department the quiz hour should be allotted something in this style: the holding of a test one week, the explanation of the test the next week; possibly an oral quiz the third week; while on the fourth week, a written test is again in order.

Should such a schedule obtain, the student must study during every week of his course and he can see week by week his chances of promotion; and if a man getting fifty to sixty percent in his tests cannot see that he is doomed to failure at the final examination unless he is willing to knuckle down to hard work, he has no one but himself to blame when success is not his.

If the plan of making tests an official part of the instruction prevails; if they are declared as essential to the well-being of the student as are the lectures and the laboratory courses; if they are given regular places upon the schedule and if the marking of the answers is considered as a part of the daily routine of the instructor in charge, the need for final examinations will become less and less until the importance of that now essential part of college instruction will finally reach the vanishing point and those advocating the abolition of the final examination will have their way.

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### PROVIDING NEEDED EDUCATION.\*

ROBERT P. FISCHER, B. SC., PHAR D.

Providing education or rather post-graduate education is one of the professed functions of the American Pharmaceutical Association and in order to properly carry out such education, the Association has adopted the "extension" idea through its monthly journal and the Yearbook, both of which reach every member of the Association.

Without a doubt the needs of the members, as far as keeping in touch with pharmaceutical progress is concerned, are thus well taken care of; but there is

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\* Read before Section on Education and Legislation, San Francisco Meeting.

a huge possibility for doing educational work which the Association is overlooking and which, if properly looked after, would, in the opinion of the author of this paper, bring considerable credit to the Association as a whole and indirectly to every member.

Pharmacy and pharmacists have too long been the subjects of many misconceptions on the part of the lay public and it is time that the public should be educated to respect the pharmacist and his profession even as it has been taught to respect the physician and the practice of medicine.

No one will dispute that most of the "stories" implicating the entire drug trade in the dope traffic and other nefarious business originate in the public press, and when such "stories" appear, they are scarcely if ever replied to with the true facts by the members of the profession which is thus unjustly attacked.

The remedy for this condition is not as difficult as it may at first appear, although it may at times prove to be a slow process. It simply requires a further extension of our system of education such as the Journal of the American Medical Association has been carrying on with increasing success for several years.

The plan followed by the Association mentioned is briefly this: Selecting from each issue of the Journal a number of articles which have a news value to the general public, printing them on sheets of paper which can be conveniently folded and wrapped and mailing these so-called "Press Bulletins" to newspapers. If the articles selected for the "Press Bulletin" are short, as they originally appear in the Journal, they are printed in full and if too long they are abstracted. The phrase, "says the Journal of the American Medical Association," is inserted at some convenient place and the article as sent out is in such shape as to require very little if any editing by the newspaper men.

In the report on public education submitted at the 1915 convention of the American Medical Association, the following reference is made to the "Press Bulletin":

"The newspapers of the country are showing an increasing tendency to utilize this material and to credit the Association and the medical profession with sincerity and disinterestedness in its educational efforts. In January, the secretary, at the direction of the general manager, sent to each of the 4,912 names on the mailing list of the Bulletin a return postal card asking them to indicate whether they desired the Bulletin sent to them for the coming year; 2,302 replies were received, of which 102 asked to have the Bulletin stopped and 2,200 asked to have it continued. As this is the first time that any expression of opinion has been asked for, this evidence of a desire on the part of 45 percent of the newspapers on the list to have the Bulletin continued is ample evidence of its value."

What the Journal of the American Medical Association can do along these lines, can also be done by the Journal of the American Pharmaceutical Association.

The more real pharmaceutical news and information we furnish the newspaper men, the less sensational rot about pharmacy will they have space for. Modern successful newspapers want to publish correct information, and the chief reason why they are unable to do so in many instances is because some inexperienced reporter is assigned to a technical field which he cannot handle intelligently. "Press Bulletins" will in a large measure overcome this difficulty.

Of course, a judicious censorship would have to be exercised by our editor in preparing these bulletins.

Many of the editorials appearing in the Journal of the American Pharmaceutical Association, are well worth the layman's consideration and would go far toward setting pharmacy right with the public on a good many questions affecting both, but we cannot expect the busy editor of a daily paper to read our journal and thus get our point of view.

As for the papers, the argument will probably be advanced that they are too long for bulletin purposes, and that it would take too much of our editor's time to abstract them.

If the by-laws of this Association were lived up to in regard to the presentation of papers, an abstract would be prepared and handed in before the meeting, for Chapter X, Article III, of the by-laws, specifically states:

"Any person desiring to submit a paper to the Association<sup>1</sup> shall present to the Chairman of the particular section to which it refers, at least ten days prior to the meeting, an abstract of said paper, indicative of its contents, and consisting of not less than fifty or more than two hundred words. This abstract shall be printed as a part of the program."

An abstract of from fifty to two hundred words would be just about what would be required for the "Press Bulletin."

The custom of most scientific associations is to print abstracts of all or nearly all papers presented at their annual meetings in the issue of the Journal which immediately precedes the date of the meeting. This gives other members an opportunity to prepare for the discussion upon any paper that is to be presented.

It was doubtless intended by the framers of our by-laws that a similar arrangement should be followed by this Association and the abstracts prepared in accordance with the rules would thus answer the two-fold purpose of providing better discussions at the meetings and material for the "Press Bulletins."

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## COÖPERATION A NECESSITY.\*

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WHY SHOULD THERE NOT BE ACTIVITY BETWEEN THE MEDICAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PROFESSIONS IN THIS DIRECTION?

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JOSEPH P. REMINGTON, PH. M.

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Coöperation, as we all know, is the act of working together to one end, and it would seem that the purpose of saving life, ameliorating suffering and promoting restoration to health are the principal objects of the medical and pharmaceutical professions. Coöperation has not always been the rule in the past, and there have been instances of open hostility between the professions recorded in history. The causes are not hard to determine.

Pharmacy was originally a part of medicine, but this was centuries ago and the word "apothecary" is frequently found in the Bible. When the medical pro-

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<sup>1</sup> Recommendation adopted.

\* Read at Joint Session of the Section on Education and Legislation, Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties and National Association of Boards of Pharmacy.